

Syrian paper lauds commando attacks

DAMASCUS (R) — A Syrian newspaper Saturday praised increased Arab commando attacks against Israel and forecast unlimited support from Damascus. The semi-official Al Thawra described eight raids against Israel's northern border in the last four months as "bright pages in the heroic resistance against the terror and brutal campaigns practised by the Israeli forces." It added: "It is natural that the national Lebanese and Palestinian forces will find unlimited and continued support from Syria." Lebanon-based commandos have twice attacked Israel since Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) this week ended a five-year-old rift after the assassination of PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), which was widely blamed on Israel. Two Palestinians wounded an Israeli soldier before being shot dead in a border incident Wednesday. A day earlier three commandos and two Israeli soldiers, including a high ranking commander of a crack brigade, died in a clash just inside Israel's northern border. "When Syria bet on the military option it was taking into consideration the ability and readiness of the Arab masses to sacrifice and continue the armed struggle until they liberate their lands," Al Thawra said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

'Israel remains a threat to Egypt'

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Israel will remain a threat to Egypt for at least the next 30 years, a senior Egyptian official was quoted as saying Saturday. "Events in the region have shown that the fundamental threat to Egypt comes from the eastern front," Major General Ahmad Shawqi Al Hafni, a strategist at Cairo's Nasser Military Academy, told Al Itihad daily of Abu Dhabi. The paper said Hafni was commenting on the opening of a new road Friday near the Sinai coastal border strip of Taba. Egypt and Israel have rival claims to the tiny strip, now an Israeli resort, and the issue has been sent to international arbitration. "This strategic road is part of a far-reaching plan designed to deal with potential threats which Israel represents to Egypt for at least 30 years to come," Hafni said. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was briefed Saturday on U.S. proposals to resolve the Taba dispute with Israel without a decision by international arbitration. Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters he met Mubarak to discuss new ideas from U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer on settling the status of Taba. Sofaer, now in Israel, met Abdul Meguid Thursday and was expected to return to Cairo with an Israeli reaction to the proposals.

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Labour holiday

The Jordan Times will not be published Monday, May 2, due to the Labour Day holiday Sunday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear Tuesday, May 3. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a happy holiday.

Aziz heads for Brazil

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz left Saturday for an official visit to Brazil, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. INA said a representative of the Arab League and a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were accompanying Aziz. They would discuss the four-month old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli occupied territories with Brazil, one of the current non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Iraqi and Iranian detained in Manila

MANILA (R) — Police, investigating a report that Palestinian activists were planning to attack a U.S. military base in the Philippines, Saturday said they had detained an Iraqi and an Iranian for questioning. The state-run Philippine News Agency (PNA) quoted police captain Roman Lacap as saying the men were taken into custody on a bus heading for Angeles City, site of the U.S. Clark air base. A document leaked by police Thursday and purporting to have been provided by Israeli intelligence services said Palestinian activists planned to plant explosives near the air base.

Egypt holds 6 Israelis

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have arrested six Israeli merchants and charged them with peddling forged dollars. Cairo's semi-official Al Ahram newspaper reported Saturday. It said police held the six when they bought tax-free goods with forged \$100 bills in the Sinai town of Rafah, close to the Israeli border. The accused, in Egypt with a tourist group, claim Tel Aviv money-changers had given them the notes. Al Ahram said they would stand trial shortly.

Fire breaks out at Cairo TV building

CAIRO (AP) — Fire broke out Saturday in the 27-storey building housing Cairo's government radio and television services, and 40 people were overcome by smoke, government and hospital officials said. An Interior Ministry spokesman said the fire was caused by an electric short circuit. Employees in the building said the smell of burnt wires was unmistakable. Black and grey smoke billowed from windows on the eighth floor, where the fire started, and several floors above and below. People stood on balconies and looked from windows as hundreds of onlookers gathered beside the Nile River below. An official at the Radio-General Hospital near the AP said 20 people were brought there for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Former Tunisian minister pardoned

TUNIS (AP) — Former Finance Minister Ahmad Ben Salah, who escaped from prison in 1973 while serving a 10-year sentence for high treason, was granted a pardon Saturday. Justice Minister Salaheddine Baly announced the pardon after a meeting with President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, who has taken several other similar steps towards national reconciliation since taking office last November.

9 Iranians seek asylum in Greece

ATHENS (R) — Nine Iranians arrested after crossing into Greece from Turkey Saturday are seeking political asylum, the semi-official ANA news agency reported. It said the group, including two small children, were arrested at Orestias in the north-east of the country with three Greeks who were charged with helping them cross the border.

Leaders say uprising cannot be uprooted Palestinians, settlers battle in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians and Jewish settlers fought in the occupied West Bank village of Hebron Saturday after five Israelis were injured there by a petrol bomb, Palestinian sources said.

The sources, quoted by Reuters, said about 100 armed Jewish settlers drove through Hebron and shot and wounded a Palestinian man. They said the settlers had taken over a school. An army spokesman said there was a confrontation between Palestinian residents of Hebron and armed Jewish settlers from the nearby settlement of Kiryat Arba and claimed that an army unit had separated the two sides. He said a Palestinian with a gunshot wound had arrived at Hebron's Alia hospital, but could not confirm who shot him. Arab sources said five Israelis were reported injured in Hebron after Palestinians threw a petrol bomb into their car early Saturday. Witnesses quoted by Reuters said occupants jumped from the car with their clothes on fire.

Hebron residents injured a border policeman when they threw a stone at him and smashed the windows of two settlers' cars, the sources said. Settlers returned and clashed with Palestinians later in the day. Hospital sources said soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinian teenagers in Nablus Saturday after clashes between troops and stone-throwing protesters. An army spokesman said no one was hurt when Palestinians threw stones near Jenin. The clashes in Hebron and Nablus followed several days of relative quiet in a 20-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Other parts of the occupied territories were reported calm Saturday. But the latest communiqué

from the underground leaders of the uprising, appearing in Arab Jerusalem Friday, declared Sunday a day of violent Palestinian demonstrations. Local leaders said Saturday Palestinians were digging in for a long struggle and the recent lull did not indicate an end to the uprising.

They said that after an initial phase of demonstrations, the uprising increasingly involves the middle class and has put down roots. At least 175 Palestinians have died since the uprising began Dec. 9. Hanna Siniora, editor of the Arab Jerusalem Arabic daily newspaper Al Fajr said: "I don't think (the uprising) is fading. People are preparing for a long term struggle. The intifadah is digging in its heels and preparing for the long haul."

Siniora said Palestinian merchants and workers have actively joined the uprising in response to severe economic and financial curbs imposed by Israel. The occupation authorities have restricted the amount of money Palestinians can obtain from outside and the authorities refuse to renew the licences of Palestinians who do not pay their taxes.

In Hebron, Palestinians said Israeli tax collectors stopped residents at checkpoints and confiscated the cars of several Palestinians who had not paid their taxes.

Fifteen Arab Jerusalem shopkeepers who this week defied a military order to open their stores

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq threatens to renew missile attacks

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq threatened Saturday to resume missile attacks against Iranian cities unless Tehran stopped bombarding Iraqi towns and villages.

"The crimes of the Iranian regime in continuing to bombard residential areas in Iraqi towns and villages will not pass without cruel punishment," a high command communiqué said.

It said Iranian long-range artillery hit residential areas in the southern port city of Basra Friday night.

Basra and other border towns and villages had been shelled several times since April 20 when Iraq stopped attacks on Iran's cities under a unilateral declaration of truce, it said.

Iraq declared the truce in the nearly two-month-old war of the cities which killed thousands of civilians but said it would hit back if Iran bombed its cities or mounted a border offensive.

Iran Friday denied its forces had attacked Iraqi civilian areas and claimed Baghdad was looking for an excuse to resume its assaults on Iranian cities.

The Baghdad communiqué said Iraq would use its new 900-kilometre range "Al Abbas" sur-

face-to-surface missile and other rockets in its missile arsenal to hit Tehran and other Iranian cities. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday the new missiles could reach all Iran's ports and terminals in the Gulf and remote cities inside Iran.

Iran repeated its denial Saturday and reported that an American spy plane flew over its territory.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, received in Cyprus, quoted a war information headquarters spokesman as saying: "Iranian Muslim combatants did not shell Basra."

IRNA said Iraq had shelled the Iranian city of Abadan, across the Shatt Al Arab waterway from Basra, and three northern border towns, killing nine people and wounding 76 others.

In a separate report, the agency said a high-flying American reconnaissance plane broke the sound barrier as it passed over the southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan Saturday.

It also said Iranian anti-aircraft fire forced intruding Iraqi warplanes to flee after they tried to approach the northern Gulf port of Bushahr and Hamadan city in northwestern Iran.

Chirac waits for Le Pen endorsement

PARIS (R) — Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, facing defeat in France's presidential election, finds out Sunday whether a week of political manoeuvring has won him the support of extreme right-wing leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Voters who backed Le Pen's "France for the French" platform in the first round of the election last week will gather in the heart of Paris to celebrate the feast day of France's heroine Joan of Arc. Le Pen plans to use the occasion to tell 50,000 members of his National Front party whether to vote for Chirac or his opponent in the May 8 final round — Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

Mitterrand, who topped last Sunday's first round with just over one-third of the vote, has a 55 per cent to 45 per cent lead in the latest opinion polls for the second round.

Le Pen won 14 per cent in the first round, upsetting France's political establishment and snatching support from both traditional centre-right candidates — Chirac and former Prime Minister Raymond Barre.

Chirac took a disappointing 19.5 per cent and Barre 16.5 per cent. Barre and Le Pen were eliminated, but the surprising

show of the far right leader has allowed his influence to be felt throughout the second round campaign.

Chirac needs to secure National Front votes as well as those of the moderate centre-right if he is to win.

But some National Front activists are warning against linking up with the conservative candidate, saying it could be the "kiss of death" for the far right unless Chirac makes an open gesture of support for them.

National Front officials said Sunday's rally would be Le Pen's last great showpiece of the campaign.

"In two months' time, everyone will have forgotten the fight between Mitterrand and Chirac. People will only remember Jean-Marie Le Pen's May Day," one official said.

Le Pen's anti-immigrant programme has been the focal point of a week of delicate manoeuvring, as Chirac tries to find a way of winning over the National Front without scaring away the centrist.

Barre, centre-right leader and now Chirac's ally, has come out strongly against making any electoral compromises with the extreme right.

But since Chirac and Barre



Jacques Chirac

joined forces immediately after last Sunday's results were announced. Chirac and his lieutenants have made several covert overtures to the National Front.

Chirac told a campaign rally Friday he understood the far-right mentality and refused to turn his back on National Front voters out of "intellectual snobbery and election tactics."

His hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua appealed to the National Front in an interview with the conservative weekly Modern Values, saying the mainstream right had done badly because it failed to appeal to the French voters upheld by all right-wing voters.



Israeli police arrest a Palestinian woman in occupied Jerusalem

Gulf shipping community welcomes U.S. move to expand protection

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The shipping community Saturday welcomed Washington's decision to widen the U.S. navy's role to protect third-nation vessels against Iran in the Gulf, but noted that America may become the policeman of the strategic waterway.

Some shipping officials complained that the new policy, announced Friday in Washington, fell short of actually providing protection for all ships. Others predicted that soon, every ship entering or leaving the Gulf will try to link up with a convoy of vessels under U.S. navy protection.

Those convoys, operating on an irregular schedule, lately have averaged three each way per month. They frequently attract non-U.S.-flag "hitchhikers"

while travelling through the main danger areas, the Strait of Hormuz and southern Gulf waters.

While the United States previously had said it would provide only "humanitarian aid" to ships in distress, none of the vessels sailing close to the convoys was ever molested by Iran.

"In effect, this could turn out to be a substitute for the proposal to have a U.N. naval task force protect shipping in the Gulf until the Iraq-Iran war ends," said one of the executives. "And despite statements by U.S. officials, the United States is going to find itself becoming the policeman of the waterway."

He referred to U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci's comment that despite the policy change giving U.S. commanders the right to intercede in Iranian attacks on neutral ships, the United States was not the "policeman of the Gulf, nor do we wish to be."

While many shippers expressed delight at the U.S. decision, they were wary of predicting an end to raids on ships by Iran and Iraq.

"The decision is years overdue. Hundreds of innocent seamen have needlessly died," a Greek sea captain told Reuters. "But what steps will American warships take to stop the attacks?"

Swift Iranian gunboats, which have attacked about 30 neutral ships this year, can sometimes attack a vessel and return to their island bases within an hour, shipping sources said.

Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi declared that the turnout for the third parliamentary election since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's 1979 revolution was a record.

"The results so far indicate that the third Majlis will be heavily weighted in favour of the radicals, opening the way for reformist legislation," London-based analyst Vahe Petrossian said in the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED).

Gary Sick, a former Iran specialist with the U.S. National Security Agency, said in a telephone interview: "The real picture won't emerge until the runoff next month and when the Majlis elects the cabinet."

The election is expected to produce big gains for the radicals who are advocating major economic and social reforms long blocked by conservative clerics and the "bazaaris" — the wealthy merchant class who have survived the revolution and still wield considerable influence.

Among the winners were Hojatolislam Mehdi Karubi, head

(Continued on page 5)

Shultz: Many START issues remain unresolved

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has told a Soviet journalist that there are many unresolved issues in the superpower talks on a treaty cutting strategic nuclear arms. TASS news agency said Saturday.

Negotiating the treaty has been "much more difficult, more intrusive and therefore takes a lot of getting used to, a lot of careful thought," TASS quoted Shultz as saying.

Its correspondent interviewed Shultz after his meeting in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze one week ago. TASS did not explain why it waited before publishing the interview.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Friday the two sides were also at odds over key provisions of the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty scrapping medium-range missiles, signed last December (see page 8).

The dispute, over procedures to prevent cheating, involved restrictions on the size of containers, vehicles and structures which U.S. inspectors can examine and the degree of access they will have during inspections of Soviet military facilities, he said.

Shultz said that in the new negotiations the superpowers had not agreed on ways to account for sea-launched or air-launched

cruise missiles, or on activities each side may undertake under an extension of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty limiting missile defences.

"We have agreed that there would be a substantial period of non-withdrawal" from the ABM treaty, Shultz said.

"Then there are a lot of issues and problems in the verification area," he said, according to TASS.

"We have made a great deal of headway but its the kind of pick-and-shovel work that you have to do, and does not lend itself to someone having a bright idea of deciding to go in this way instead of that way."

Carlucci said Friday. "We do not intend to describe our specific rules of engagement or the methods we plan to use," he added.

U.S. warships in the area include the aircraft carrier Enterprise, whose A-6 jets took part in the battle in which six Iranian warships were damaged or sunk.

Outraged shippers have called for years for protection in the Gulf, where U.S., Soviet, British, French and Italian warships have generally defended only ships flying their national flags.

Iran attacks ships serving Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Arab Gulf states it regards as Baghdad's allies in the Iran-Iraq war and has raided only undefended vessels.

It remained to be seen how the Soviet Union would react to the U.S. policy change. Moscow has sought a multinational naval escort force under the United Nations flag, to which it would be a party.

After Carlucci's statement outlining the U.S. policy change, a U.S. official said the new rule does not apply to ships from communist countries.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the ships sailing Gulf waters fly communist-bloc flags, and a good part of those that do are dealing with Iran rather than the other Gulf states.

Some shipping executives said they believed Iran would find ways to continue menacing ships

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. sends advance monitors to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — An advance party of U.N. observers sent to monitor the Geneva accords on Afghanistan left Islamabad Saturday for talks with the Kabul authorities, United Nations officials said.

The team, headed by Major-General Rauli Helminen of Finland, arrived in Islamabad Monday to discuss with a Pakistani government statement called "preparatory administrative and logistical work."

It said in a statement its meetings with Pakistani officials had been "very positive and constructive" and it had received assurances of full cooperation from the government.

The U.N.-mediated accords, signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva April 14, provide for a withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from

Afghanistan, the return of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and non-interference in each other's affairs.

The United States and the Soviet Union signed the agreement as guarantors.

The Western-backed Afghan Mujahadeen, who were not a party to the Geneva settlement, have vowed to fight on until the last Soviet soldier leaves and an Islamic government is established in Afghanistan.

U.S.: All Soviets should leave

The United States Friday disputed the assertion of Afghan President Najibullah that Soviet military advisers can stay in his country under the terms of the settlement signed in Geneva.

The State Department said it believed the Kremlin had committed itself under the Geneva

accords to withdrawing from Afghanistan not only its troops but also its military advisers.

Najibullah told a news conference in Kabul Thursday that Soviet military advisers would remain in Afghanistan after the Soviet soldiers withdraw. The pullout is due to start May 15.

"Our understanding of the agreement that was negotiated is that the Soviets committed themselves to a complete withdrawal," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

"In that context, it would seem logical that Soviet advisers should be part of that," he told reporters.

Redman declined to say whether the United States believed that the Soviet Union would be in violation of the Geneva accords if it kept military advisers in Afghanistan.

In remarks to Western journalists after his last meeting with Shevardnadze, Shultz said the superpowers were continuing to make progress in their relations, but acknowledged there had been no breakthrough over a strategic arms treaty (START).

The superpowers had hoped that the signing of a START treaty would be the centrepiece of the May 29-June 2 Moscow summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Officials from both sides now say the issues involved are so complex that the accord will probably not be ready for signing by the end of May.

UNRWA: 38 years of care for Palestine refugees

By Jalal Azzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On May 1 UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) turns a new year in its long, but colourful and dedicated life.

After 38 years of continued and uninterrupted work, UNRWA services are still needed and will continue to be needed for the 2 million Palestine refugees, who live in the agency's areas of operations, pending a solution to their long-standing problem.

UNRWA was established in December 1949 by United Nations General Assembly resolution, to provide emergency relief assistance to the more than 750,000 Palestine refugees, who were uprooted from their homeland as a result of the Arab-Israeli war in 1948.

The agency's operations started on May 1, 1950, when it launched its immediate emergency relief programme, thus relieving the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR), the American Friends Service Committee and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who were responsible for feeding a large number of refugees.

Despite its temporary status, as spelled out in the resolution establishing it, UNRWA is still operating; its three-year mandate has been extended 14 times since

its creation. Through the years UNRWA's original mandate has been broadened to cover wider areas of concern, including education, health, relief and works.

The agency combines humanitarian and development objectives and while implementing its tasks, UNRWA maintains close cooperation with the host governments.

Modest budget

With a modest annual budget of \$200 million — a per capita expenditure of \$100 a year — UNRWA now provides education, health and relief services to some 2.1 million registered refugees living in Jordan, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Syria and Lebanon.

However, there are Palestinians who are not registered on UNRWA rolls, and as such are not eligible for the agency's services because they do not meet its criteria of eligibility and its definition of a Palestine "refugee."

According to UNRWA a Palestine refugee, is a person whose normal residence was in Palestine for a minimum of two years, preceding the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, and who as a result of this had lost his home and means of livelihood and took refuge in one of the countries where UNRWA operates.

To qualify for UNRWA assistance, the person concerned should meet the above require-

ments. Descendants of Palestine refugees are also eligible for UNRWA aid.

UNRWA is unique among the United Nations agencies in view of its temporary status and its total reliance on voluntary contributions.

UNRWA income

Ninety-six per cent of the agency's income comes from voluntary contributions made by governments, non-governmental organisations and individuals, while the remaining 4 per cent comes from the United Nations budget.

UNRWA's reliance on voluntary contributions has always been responsible for the agency's acute financial situation and shortfalls. The agency's present budget of some \$200 million can hardly finance the broad spectrum of services it renders to the refugees. It should be noted in this regard that the contributions do not increase with the increase in the number of Palestine refugees who tripled since 1948, thus putting more pressure on the agency's already limited budget and its ability to cope with refugees' basic needs. Faced with this situation, the agency has to reconsider its priorities with a view to shifting the focus from the least needed to the most needed services. Given this difficult situation, and due to a severe financial crisis, UNRWA was forced to stop distribution of food rations to the eligible Palestine refugees.

On the other hand, the agency concentrated on the education programme which the Palestinians value most. Health falls second in priority and relief comes third. Education now takes almost more than one third of the agency's budget (around \$70 million) followed by health at 14 per cent.

UNRWA's education programme is, by all measures, its largest and most efficient.

The agency runs 635 elementary and junior secondary schools, attended by 345,000 Palestine refugee children and staffed by 10,160 teachers. It also runs 8 vocational training centres, attended by around 4,400 students, and staffed by 2,200 vocational and teacher training instructors.

In the area of health, UNRWA provides preventive medical services and mother and child care through 98 health centres to some 1.8 million refugees and runs 30 dental clinics in the refugee camps. The agency also subsidises 824 hospital beds for refugee patients.

As regards relief, UNRWA provides assistance to 117,987 special hardship cases of which 30,000 are old people, 18,000 widows and 25,000 disabled. It also finances a number of self-help projects costing up to \$2,000 each.

The agency employs 17,125 persons, 125 of whom are international staff members while the rest are Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA in Jordan

Because more than one third of the Palestine refugees registered



Hope for the future: Palestinian children at the Mar Elias refugee camp's school in north Lebanon.

with UNRWA live in Jordan, the agency runs the largest of its programmes in Jordan for some 850,000 registered refugees, of which 290,000 (25 per cent) live in 10 refugee camps in Jordan. In addition the agency serves 150,000 refugees who fled their camps after the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war and 240,000 who were displaced for the first time. The latter are registered with the Jordanian government as dis-

placed persons and are receiving government assistance.

UNRWA provides schooling for approximately 135,000 students through 195 schools in Jordan. In addition the agency provides vocational and teacher training for 1,468 students, at two centres in Wadi Seer and Naour. In Jordan UNRWA employs 5,481 people, including teachers, general service staff and adminis-

trative staff.

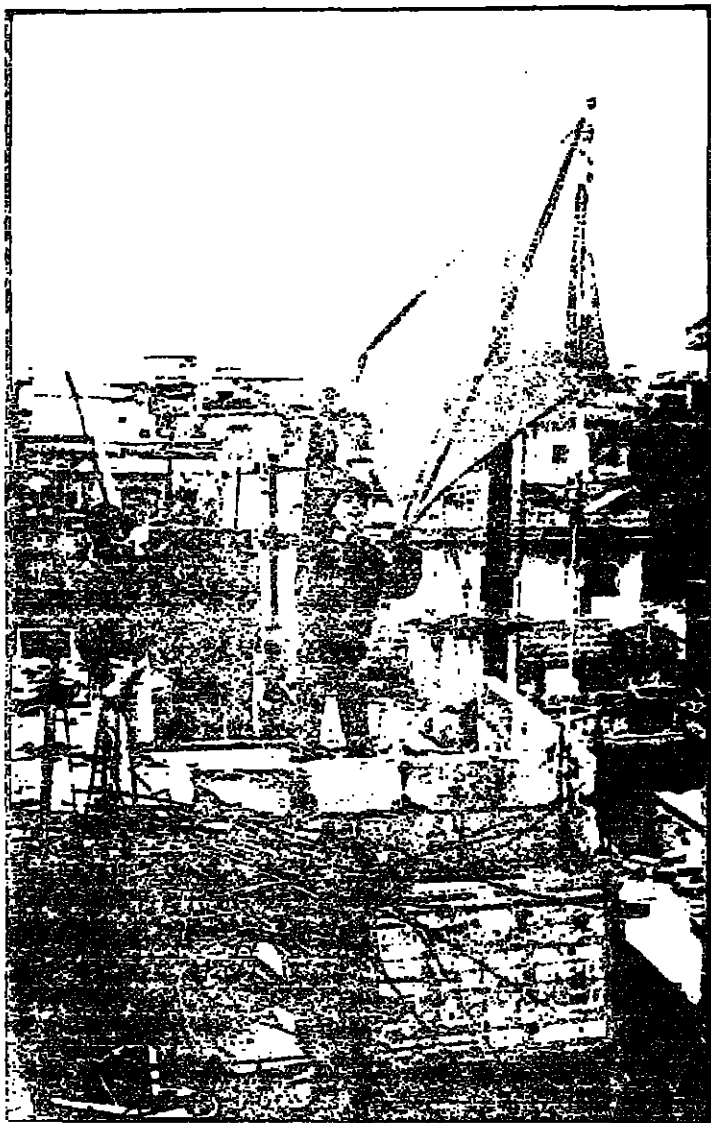
Besides its humanitarian and development objectives, UNRWA contributes to informing the Western media and Western audiences on the plight of the Palestine refugees through publications and documentaries produced by its headquarters, Vienna-based information section.

By doing so UNRWA contributes to peaceful efforts for the achievement of a solution to the

Palestine question.

UNRWA has by time become synonymous with the Palestine question and is viewed by the majority of the Palestinians as a symbol of the international community's commitment towards them. They also see UNRWA as a living reminder of the injustice done to the Palestine refugees, and the world failure to find a just solution to their problem.

UNRWA maintains close cooperation with the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which supplies it with technical expertise. It also liaises with WHO (World Health Organisation). The agency also cooperates with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its programme for the Palestinian children.



A Palestinian child holds the UNRWA flag on top of the agency's Burj Al Barajneh office in Beirut.



A typical UNRWA school courtyard: Trying to cope with the least available resources.



An UNRWA relief supply truck arrives at one of Beirut's refugee camps during the war of the camps.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00	Koran
14:20	Programme review
14:25	Cartoons
14:30	Children's series
14:35	Religious programme
14:40	Ramadan puzzle
14:45	Arabic play
14:50	Cooking programme
14:55	Religious programme
15:00	Health and fasting
15:05	Arabic comedies
15:10	Ramadan contest
15:15	Religious programmes
15:20	Arabic series
15:25	Arabic series
15:30	Puzzles from all over the world
15:35	Historical series
15:40	News summary in Arabic
15:45	Arabic series
15:50	Religious programme

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Rue Carnot
18:30	L'Ecole des Fars
19:00	News in French
19:15	Science A la une
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	My Husband and I
21:10	World in Flames
22:00	News in English
22:30	O'Hara
23:30	Richman, Poorman

RADIO JORDAN

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partly on 95.0 KHz. SW

Tel: 77111-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
11:05	In Concert
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Talk
12:30	Pop Session contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Science Report
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Listeners' Choice
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Rhythm and Blues
19:00	Newsweek
19:30	Date with a Star

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustrators. There is also a continuous showing of the video "7 Illustrators at Work" throughout the exhibition.

★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

★ National Book and Audiovisual exhibition at Vocational Training School, Ain Al Pasha.

LECTURE

Dr. Joseph A. Green of the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) will give a lecture on "Cultural Resources Management: Archaeology as the Art of the Possible" at 5:00 p.m. Monday May 2, at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University in Irbid.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 644371
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Husseini Youth City .. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664121
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 643555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hajia Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

JORDAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qala (Citadel) 1911. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Munatah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624591.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel. 637440.

CHURCHES

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622566.

CHURCHES

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abidat. Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 625303.

chaplain's residence tel. 601259.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775291.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 532055, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

16:15	Agaba (RJ)
16:30	Kuwait (RJ)
16:40	Qadiah (RJ)
16:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:45	Jeddah (RJ)
18:00	London (RJ)
18:50	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00	Pars (RJ)
19:05	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
19:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
19:55	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
20:30	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
20:55	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:15	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
10:30	Damascus (AZ)
11:00	Baghdad (IA)
11:30	Sharjah, Doha (GF)
13:45	Kuwait (LN)
14:35	Kuwait (KU)
14:40	Jeddah (SV)
17:35	Albairi (OA)
19:25	Frankfurt (LH)
20:15	Beirut (ME)
22:05	Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00	Agaba (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
20:35	Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
20:45	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
20:50	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:55	Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ)
21:15	Cairo (RJ)
22:15	Damascus (RJ)
22:50	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:00	Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
18:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
18:40	Larnaca, Berlin (IF)
11:20	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Rome (AZ)
14:00	Baghdad (IA)
14:30	Bahrain, Doha, Sharjah, Muscat (GF)
15:00	Tripoli (LN)
15:35	Kuwait (KU)
17:00	Jeddah (SV)
18:30	Albairi (OA)
20:15	Sana'a (LH)
22:50	Cairo (MS)

PRAYER TIMES

04:17	Fajr
05:44	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:33	Dhuhr
16:14	'Asr
19:22	Maghreb
20:49	'Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cloudy to partly cloudy, with chances for scattered showers, and a drop in temperature is expected. Winds will be northerly to moderate to fresh. In Agaba, it will be cloudy to partly cloudy, with northerly moderate to fresh winds, and rough seas will become calm.

Min./max temp.

Amman	11 / 22
Agaba	21 / 31
Deserts	15 / 25
Jordan Valley	15 / 27

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES:

Amman 24, Agaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Agaba 25 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates

Belgian franc	95.5 / 97.1
Dutch guilder	178.1 / 181
French franc	58.7 / 59.8
Italian lira	26.4 / 27.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	240 / 273
Swiss franc	241 / 245.4
U.K. sterling pound	625.5 / 637.4
U.S. dollar	334.3 / 339.3
W. German mark	199.6 / 203.1

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Quesnein	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Fire headquarters	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	783303
Police Headquarters	661111
Police rescue	6229408
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	8963901
Electric Power Co.	6363814, 624861
Municipal water complaints	7711258
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	(08)5333060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. George Sahouri	694546
Dr. Tayseer Sa'di	777636
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'at	623029
Dr. Khalil Abdo	953392
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	638730
Yacoub pharmacy	644040
Jordan Laxi	623050
Kurdi taxi	641309

HOSPITALS

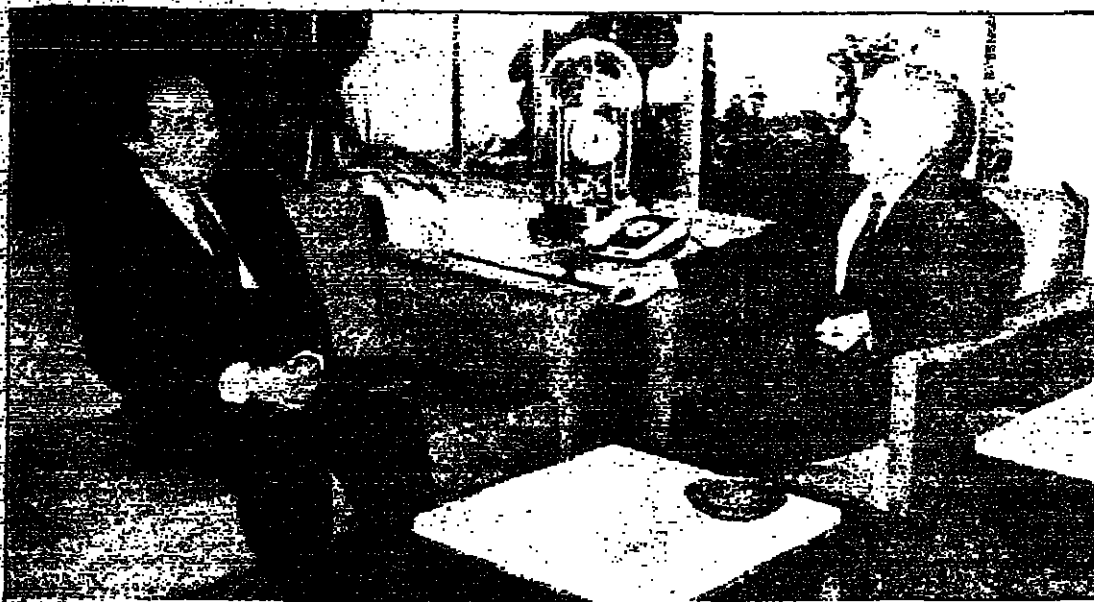
Hussein Medical Centre	N1381372
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Paestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Shmeisani Hospital	660131
University Hospital	84584565
Al-Musharraf Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abidat	66012737
Al-Ahli, Abidat	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511126
Agapi, Malhas	87111258
Queen Alia Hospital	60724050
Amal Hospital	674155

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111/19
Rodas Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	664112
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (French)	420 / 360
Apple (green)	420 / 360
Apple (Lebanese)	300 / 250
Banana	300 / 240
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 240
Beans (broad)	240 / 200
Beans (narrow)	160 / 120
Carrot	180 / 140
Cauliflower (white)	200 / 160
Cauliflower (green)	750 / 650
Cucumbers	240 / 180
Dates (2 kg)	600 / 500
Eggplant (large)	120 / 100
Eggplant (small)	150 / 100
Garlic (green)	180 / 140
Lemon	220 / 180
Mallow	240 / 180
Onion (green)	120 / 100
Onion (dry)	120 / 80
Oranges (local)	220



LAWZI MEETS ENVOY: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi meets in his office Saturday with Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Samario Sorio Kosomo and reviewed

bilateral relations with him. Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in parliamentary affairs was also discussed.

Cabinet endorses law on buildings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has endorsed an amendment to the Jordanian law on buildings within the jurisdiction of municipalities.

The amendment offers violators of the law to obtain licences for building operations in accordance with a new set of regulations.

The Cabinet meeting in its weekly session, endorsed a 1988 budget for the Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation.

It also gave its consent to the Foreign Ministry's participation in meetings by an international legal committee to convene in Geneva on May 9.

This committee will discuss proposals for amending an international law providing protection

for refugees.

The Cabinet said that the Ministry of Agriculture will take part in an annual agricultural exhibition to be held in Britain in July.

The exhibition will display a variety of agricultural equipment recently employed in developed nations.

The Cabinet also gave its consent to a visit to the United Kingdom by a Ministry of Education team.

On June 6, to look into means of benefiting from techniques used in teaching children in the use of computers at British secondary schools.

The Cabinet endorsed the appointment of Rajai Muasher, Sa'id Ghazzawi, Hammad

Ma'aita, Sa'id Al Surour and Abdul Hadi Hammoudeh as members of the Agricultural Credit Corporation's board of directors.

Insurance companies to merge

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has given its tentative approval of a merger between the Jordan Insurance Company and the United Insurance Company, the Al Ra'i Arabic daily reported.

The report said Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa has formed a committee to conduct an assessment of the two companies assets, and a committee to embark on procedures as of May 1, dealing with administrative affairs of the two companies. This committee comprises members of the board of directors from both insurance companies.

Centre planned to examine handicapped children

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) intends to open an integrated centre for examining children exposed to handicaps, and diagnosing their cases, CPF President Fakhri Bilbeisi announced Saturday.

In a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily, Bilbeisi said that once the children's cases have been defined by the centre, measures could then be taken to offer proper protection.

The projected centre, he said, will offer a variety of medical specialisations for diagnosing and treating all cases, and will have a special unit for offering rehabilitation to victims of cerebral palsy.

Bilbeisi estimated the cost of the projected centre at JD 500,000.

In October last year the CPF announced that it collected JD 13,390 in a campaign to raise funds held that month and said that the donations were "double the amount it collected in a similar campaign in the previous year."

In his interview with Sawt Al Shaab, Bilbeisi did not disclose the source of funds to finance the projected centre.

The CPF which was established in 1977 requires at least JD 150,000 annually to cover the expenses of treatment for cerebral palsy victims who are on the increase every year, Bilbeisi had said in an earlier interview.

He said since its inception CPF had offered treatment to 3,300 children with cerebral palsy, mostly children who were offered proper care at the Al Hussein Medical Centre and government



Fakhri Bilbeisi

hospitals. Bilbeisi said the CPF had arranged for 40 surgical operations to be carried out free of charge.

The CPF's statistical bulletin for 1982 reveals that nearly 71 per cent of patients examined by CPF teams turned out to be victims of cerebral palsy and physical disability of some kind, but the remaining cases were due to hereditary disabilities.

Bilbeisi said that CPF teams send cerebral palsy victims to rehabilitation centres and offer guidance to families who keep their affected children at home.

"Experiments have shown us that a national centre for examining at an early stage disabilities and cerebral palsy among children has become a necessity," Bilbeisi noted.

He said that early diagnosis saves a lot of trouble, efforts and funds and makes it easy for CPF teams to offer better rehabilitation services.

Ureikat pays tribute to workers under occupation

Jordan marks Labour Day today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Sunday joins countries of the world in celebrating Labour Day, an anniversary regarded as a public holiday in the country.

"On this occasion Jordanian workers look with hope towards the development of the country's legislations and laws pertaining to labourers and workers, in a manner that would help fulfil their aspirations, according to Samir Qarden, president of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU).

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary, Qarden said that a projected new labour law is expected to expand the social security system for workers, giving them more care and protection; and to set up housing projects for workers.

The new labour law is also expected to allocate part of the Social Security Corporation's funds to support the national industry, to launch new industrial projects that would create new job opportunities for Jordanian workers and to support schemes being implemented by the Vocational Training Corporation, that are designed to raise the efficiency and skills of Jordanian workers, Qarden noted.

Jordanian workers look with great hope towards the development of the labour unions movement and the promotion of workers' education, so that all workers would be aware of their rights and duties towards their country, and employers, Qarden added.

He said the federation looks forward to the time when workers in Jordan "will contribute positively towards producing union leaders that would promote the labour movement and impart education to all workers in all fields."

The federation looks forward to the time when health services for all workers and their families in Jordan will be introduced, Qarden said.

"Labour Day is an occasion for

honouring all workers. It is a day of dignity, freedom and social justice, as well as an occasion urging all Jordanian workers to increase their efforts and their sacrifices for their country and the improvement of production," Qarden said.

For workers, unions remain the only guarantee for attaining their aspirations, and also for offering real service towards the social and economic development of the country, Qarden noted.

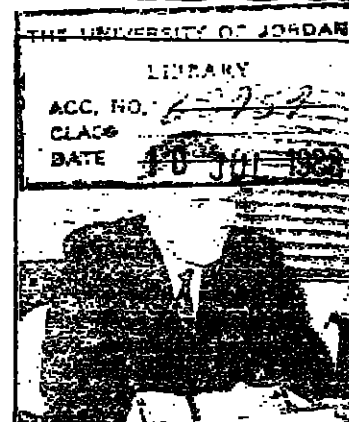
New labour law

He said the federation continues to strive to raise the standard of living of all workers and ensure social services to them. "For this reason, it has been seeking to have a new law that would organise the relationship between employers and employees, defining rights and commitments and duties of both parties and ensuring continued mutual cooperation."

"A new labour law is required now to cope with the new economic and social development in the Kingdom and to provide more services and more stability for Jordanian workers and their families," Qarden said.

Qarden appealed to the government to appoint workers attaches at Jordanian embassies abroad especially where Jordanian workers are employed to look after their affairs, and to offer the distinguished children of Jordanian workers more opportunities for university education, and to ensure proper representation at regional and international conferences for Jordanian workers.

Qarden voiced the federation's total support for the Palestinian workers' uprising against the Israeli occupation, and appealed to all workers to extend all possi-



Samir Qarden

ble help to their brothers under Israeli rule.

Also on the eve of Labour Day, Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam, president of the federation of Jordanian workers employed in air transport and tourism, said that the Jordanian labour movement has succeeded in making itself felt at the Arab and regional levels through conferences and seminars involving labourers.

Khaddam, in a statement to Al Dustour Arabic daily, said that workers unions in the Arab World are maintaining contacts at present to unify their ranks against dangers and threats posed to Arab workers, to improve their living standards and enable them to contribute constructively towards the building up of their nation.

Also speaking to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of the Labour Day anniversary, Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat said that Labour Day this year coincides with an escalation of resistance activities by Arab workers against Israel's occupation in the occupied Arab territories.

The minister paid tribute to the heroic stand of the Palestinian people and their labour unions and workers to thwart Israel's plans and to their struggle for

freedom. "On this day, the whole country expresses its appreciation and gratitude to its workers who constitute the essential element of production in all fields of work," Ureikat said.

Since 1986, the minister noted, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has been carrying out plans for the development of workers' capabilities and skills, in order to promote production and help the country implement its various economic and social projects.

Over the past few years the Ministry of Labour had been devoting its time and effort to amending labour laws and legislations.

It has created a special department designed to give proper attention to workers' occupational safety, to create better conditions for workers and to offer employment to them through the ministry's employment offices, Ureikat noted.

Expatriate conferences

The ministry's care for workers has extended to those employed in other countries. For this reason the Ministry of Labour has convened Jordanian expatriates conferences in the past three years, and will hold the fourth conference in July this year, to deal with problems encountered by Jordanians abroad, Ureikat noted.

In the interview, Ureikat referred to social security offered to Jordanian workers and said that the Social Security Corporation law now offers protection to nearly 465,000 Jordanian workers, up from 62,000 in 1981 and the ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) offers training to workers at its various centres.

Speaking to Petra on the occasion, Labour Ministry's Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh said Jordan takes pride in being a "factory of men" and a source of skilled manpower.

"The Ministry of Labour is

taking active steps to deal with the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom, through creating new opportunities of work, and through re-organising the labour market to control employment and to give priority to Jordanians in all fields of work," Khasawneh noted.

The labour law, he said, has more than once undergone amendments "to cater for the economic and social variables and changes in the Kingdom."

According to statistics available to the Ministry of Labour, employment offices around the country have been able to find work for thousands of job seekers, Khasawneh noted.

He said in 1983, job seekers through these offices amounted to 5,569, of whom 2,343 were helped to get jobs. In 1984 the job seekers rose to 17,232 of whom 11,260 were given jobs. In 1985 there were 14,523 job seekers, of whom 9,182 were given jobs. In 1986 the number was 15,940 job seekers, of whom 9,008 were given jobs and in 1987 the number rose to 19,456 of whom 7,997 people were helped by the employment offices to get work.

Khasawneh said the Ministry of Labour was giving due attention to the workers in the occupied Arab territories, and monitoring Israel's inhuman practices against Arab workers and their unions.

"The ministry has been supplying the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) with reports and statistics on such practices and urging them to help Arab workers in the face of Israeli atrocities," Khasawneh pointed out.

He said that the Ministry of Labour is continuing to supply Arab countries with trained and skilled workers, including professionals such as doctors, teachers and engineers, and has created a special fund to augment the salaries of those employed by Yemen, Algeria and Libya.

Police school to introduce post-graduate studies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Police Academy has finalised plans for introducing post-graduate studies in three areas of specialisation: police science, administrative science and social sciences, according to the academy's Director Mohammad Al Bassoul.

Bassoul was quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily as saying that the introduction of the post-graduate studies heralds a new phase in the academy's development which, he said, will be carried out in cooperation with Mu'ta University, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, which will help set courses of study for different subjects.

The academy's aim of introducing the new development is to provide recruits and train police officers that can handle the Public Security Department's new programmes of comprehensive security, Bassoul said.

The academy, Bassoul said, plans to set up a target shooting field, due to the importance it attaches to military and police sciences.

The academy will also set up a spacious multi-purpose sports hall to support police sports activities, in addition to a library that would enrich the knowledge of students in police work, Bassoul added.

UNRWA employees seek review of loan terms

AMMAN (J.T.) — Employees working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Jordan are demanding a re-examination of the interests paid on loans they obtain from the agency.

Al Dustour newspaper reported that the employees say the interest rate was excessively high, and that their salaries are barely sufficient for covering the rising cost of living.

According to the report, the

workers have submitted a complaint to the UNRWA headquarters through their respective committees, so that their grievances will be considered by the UNRWA management at its June 2, meeting in Vienna.

The employees are demanding that no interests be charged on their loans, which they obtained from their own savings funds, or that they be allowed to withdraw for good part of their savings, as was done in 1959.

Associations, unions declare total support for Jordan's stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — Presidents of Jordanian Professional Associations and trade unions have declared their total support for the Jordanian stand with regard to the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's proposals on the Middle East.

A statement they issued at the Professional Associations Complex said that the Jordanian position is in harmony with the stand of Arab masses "which does not accept partial solutions or unilateral agreements with the enemy."

The statement said: "The Arab masses refuse any attempt to ignore the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) role as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people."

The statement accused the United States and its allied forces of trying to contain the Palestinian people's uprising and prevent it from achieving its noble goals, and said that it is a national duty for the professional associations in the Arab World to declare their clear stands with regard to

the uprising and the hostile attempts to abort it.

The uprising in the occupied territories represents a real turn in the Palestinian national struggle, and support for this uprising is a national duty for all Arabs, the statement said.

"Support for the Palestinians should be given to enable the oppressed people to maintain their revolt, to confront the Israeli rulers and abort their designs," the statement added.

It said that Arab people everywhere should extend unlimited support and financial and material assistance to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, and that the Arab countries should respond to an Algerian government call for an Arab summit meeting to discuss the situation.

The statement called on the confrontation states to unite their forces and revive the Eastern Front comprising Syria, Jordan, Iraq and the PLO to confront Israel and to help the Palestinians regain their rights and their

homeland. Furthermore, the statement denounced the two explosions in Marka and Amman municipality earlier in April as criminal actions serving the Zionists and their agents and directed against the Kingdom's national security.

The statement considered such criminal actions as a means for exerting pressure on Jordan "to change its stand and to accept the U.S. proposals, and also as a means for sowing seeds of dissension within the ranks of the united Jordanian family."

The statement said Washington's absolute support for Israel and its determination to ignore the role of the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, make it incumbent on the Arabs to turn down the latest U.S. proposals and to stop any dialogue with Washington.

"Any dialogue with the U.S. over these proposals is a waste of time since they are intended as a means for rendering national efforts futile," the statement said.

1 killed, 20 hurt in weekend accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — One person was killed and 20 others were injured in 17 different incidents and accidents that occurred in the Kingdom over the past 48 hours, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Civil Defence Department.

The bulletin said that the death occurred in a road accident at Rweished, in which four other people were injured. The other injuries came as a result of a fire

in a furniture store, another in an open field and the others in road accidents. One of the injured was a four-year old boy who had fallen from a high place in Aiy near Karak, and is being treated at Al Hussein Ibn Ali Hospital.

Ministry to appoint 50 more dentists

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry will appoint 50 Jordanian dentists this year to work at Health Ministry centres around the Kingdom, thus raising to 170 the overall number of dentists employed by the government, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced Thursday.

Hamzeh, who made the announcement at a meeting with dentists working for the Health Ministry's Primary Care Department, said that dentists work is an integral part of the primary health care being offered to citizens in all parts of the country. Al Ra'i Arabic daily quoted the

minister as saying the dentists will be appointed at health centres and provided with the necessary equipment to care for the public.

Health Ministry dentists, he said, will also be involved in dental care programme carried out at schools and population centres.

Khairi elected president of JDA

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) Friday elected Dr. Ishaq Al Khairi as the association president to serve for the coming two years.

Khairi won 157 votes against 118 votes won by his rival Dr. Anas Al Sahli during the election held at the Professional Association Complex.

A third candidate, Dr. Nasrallah Nasrallah withdrew as the election was in progress, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The paper reported that eight other association members were elected as JDA board members. These were: Mohammad Al Qalaq, Sa'id Meizar, Ahmad

Rashdan, Salah Tawil, Mohammad Tawilbeh, Fares Al Far, Shaker Haddad and Hashem Haddadin.

A total of 310 association members took part in the election out of a total 433 registered JDA members who are eligible to vote. The election took place following the review of a general report on the association's financial and administrative activities.

A committee comprising four members who included a representative of the Health Ministry counted the votes before the result was declared.

Dr. Sahli who lost the election interrupted the process by announcing that the election was

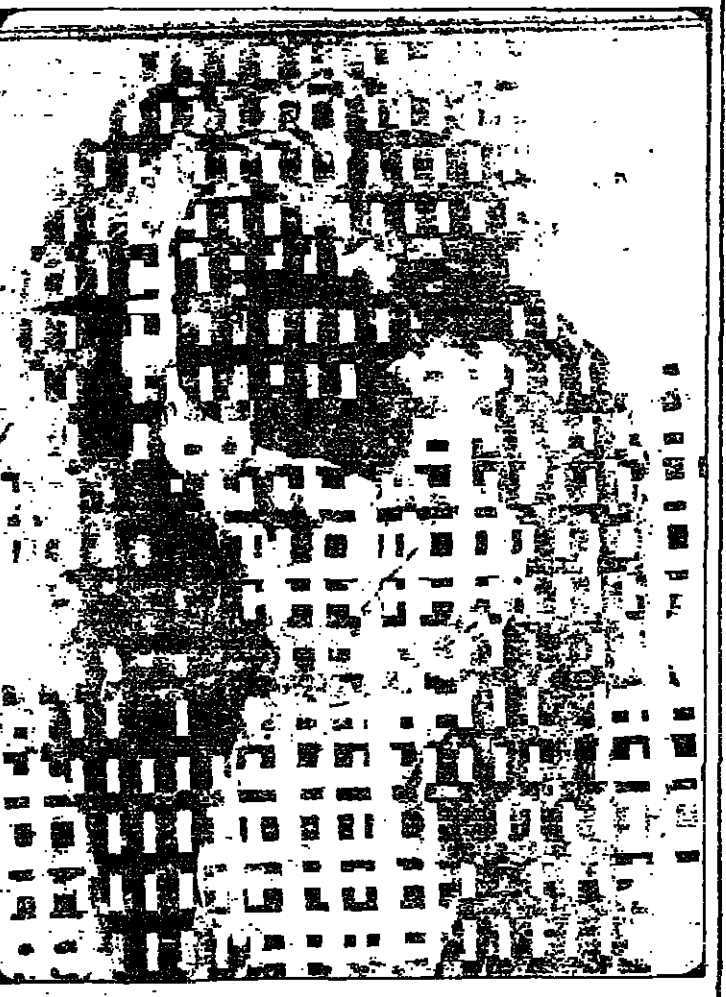
rigged and submitted an official written protest.

He had asked that the number of cast ballots be matched with the actual number of voters because he suspected that some members had voted more than once, but his request was turned down.

Sahli's views were backed by a number of association members who claimed that at least three voters cast ballots more than once.

But the JDA's legal adviser said that the election outcome would be considered correct and valid unless one of the candidates raised a case in a court of law contesting the results.

ART EXHIBITION: An exhibition of the work of 30 local artists is now on show on the first floor of the Tower Building, Third Circle. Organized by artist Ayyad Al Nimri, the exhibition includes work by Karara, Nimri, Mahmood Taha, Samia Zarur, Wajdan Ali, Hind Nasser, Leyla Hadad, Ali Ghoul, Diana Shamounki, Rafiq Lahham, Salah Abu Shadi, Munom Donbani, Ivy Nasir, Ghada Dahdabeh, Nasmah Al Nimri, Ayyad Al Nimri, Nabli Shikadeh, Abdul Raouf Shamoun, Jamal Ashour, Omar Hamdan, Mukarram Rifai, Rizik Abdel Hadi among others. The exhibition which opened last Sunday under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Wajdan, is open daily, except Fridays from 2 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. until the end of Ramadan. The photo is a painting by Nasmah Al Nimri on display at the exhibition.



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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Slow but positive growth in 1987

THE preliminary estimations of the national accounts for the year 1987 indicate that Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) has shown a growth rate just below two per cent in real terms.

Nationally such a growth rate is not exactly impressive or outstanding, especially if taken in comparison with the extremely high growth rates registered during the good years of the seventies and early eighties, or for that matter, in comparison with the five per cent growth rate projected by the current five-year economic development plan.

However, the achieved growth rate of 1987 remains acceptable in general because it indicated continued positive growth, slow as it may be. The economic recession experienced in Jordan, well into its fifth year did not cause a retreat in the gross domestic product. It was confined to only lowering the growth rates, while the same wage of recession did cause an outright set back in many other developing countries, including Arab oil producing countries, which posted a negative growth in their national income.

On the other hand, we can observe that the targeted growth rate of five per cent in the five-year plan could not have been

accomplished due to the fact that the assumptions of the plan did not materialise. The plan obviously did not envisage the continuation of the Gulf war indefinitely, nor did it predict the drop in oil prices by around 50 per cent, or the decrease in financial Arab aid received by the Treasury, or the closure of certain traditional Arab markets in the face of Jordanian agricultural products under the impact of unfair competition by the Turkish products.

Since the outcome of the economic development plan was based on planners' assumptions, it was only normal that the results would be below the desired targets because the actual situation in the area was much worse than originally anticipated.

What should draw our attention is not the fact that economic growth rate was way below the projected level of 5 per cent but that continued high growth of the population at around four per cent annum, the highest in the world. The per capita share of income and production, and consequently the standard of living are showing a negative growth for the fifth year in a row, which should be a reason for concern.

The two per cent growth rate achieved by the Jordanian economy

in 1987 is quite normal according to international standards. However, the population growth is quite abnormal by any standard. Therefore, the economic growth will not, under any assumptions be able to cope with this rate. Consequently a rational population policy is overdue, and must be worked out and implemented as early as possible, if the crisis is to be averted before it is too late.

The gross domestic product is taken as a good measure for the economic activities within the country. It does not measure the national product nor the national income. It is our estimate that these indicators did not reflect any positive growth in 1987 due to the drop in expatriates' remittances on one hand and the increase of the cost of external debt on the other.

There are new trends in several economic indicators suggesting that Jordan is emerging slowly from the economic recession as of the last quarter of 1987. These indications became evident during the last months of 1987. It is hoped that they will hold all through 1988, and that the Jordanian economy would resume growth at higher rates.

Ambitious politicians and false tales

EVERY few years, the United States domestic political scene is enlivened — we were going to say enriched, but decided against spreading false tales — by a bevy of presidential hopefuls. Of course, the New York primary was an opportunity for candidates and others to outbid one another in soliciting the Jewish vote by proffering the most pro-Israeli policies possible. Only the Reverend Jesse Jackson had the grace and composure to maintain a semblance of balance and humanity in his position, arguing that peace would come to the Middle East only when both Israelis and Palestinians could enjoy security and political rights.

We have been particularly shocked by the one-sided position of Michael Dukakis, the Democratic Party front-runner, whose recent comments on the Middle East indicate very clearly that his main concern in the region is to preserve the advantages that Israel has gained from its militarism. He has said that he does not agree with all the points in the Shultz Plan, but welcomes it because "its goal is Israel's goal" — to convince Arab leaders to come to the bargaining table. He goes on to say: "We will use every ounce of energy we have to persuade Arab leaders to enter into direct negotiations with Israel. We will strengthen our strategic partnership with Israel."

A presidential candidate who talks like this is incredibly stupid, ill-informed or devoid of fairness altogether. The fact in the region today is that the Arabs have been pushing for an international conference to negotiate peace with Israel, and to assure the rights of the Palestinians alongside the existing rights of the Israelis. The problem is not one of convincing the Arab leaders to negotiate, but rather of convincing the Israelis that the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict must include a just resolution of the Palestinian issue. Mr. Dukakis mentions the Palestinians in passing, saying they should have a future, while to Israel he pledges eternal security and strategic superiority over the Arabs. The distortion is so great that even the dictates of presidential campaigning cannot explain it all.

Probably the only thing to do in a situation like this is to ignore what Mr. Dukakis says, and write it off as the frenzied pandering of a very ambitious man who will let neither truth nor honour stand in the way of his political aspirations. The whole spectacle is rather sad, often silly, and probably unnecessary, as the American people are renowned for their fairness and their humanity, and, if they were asked, they would want Arabs and Israelis to live in peace and with equal rights for all.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Uprising expanding

IT has become clear now more than ever before that the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories is spreading and expanding every day, despite the Israeli terrorist practices to stem the resistance. More lives are being sacrificed for the sake of freedom and more efforts are being made to ensure liberation from Israeli occupation rule. On Friday the holy city of Jerusalem addressed the Arab and Muslim Nations through yet another round of clashes between the worshippers at the Aqsa Mosque and the Israeli troops. The protest in the holy city was another confirmation by the Arab population that they would never succumb to the enemy's will and capitulate to the enemies of peace. This protest means that the Arab people will remain steadfast and that the Arab Nation and the Muslim countries at large should act now to save the people and the land from Israel's oppression. The protest served as a call by the oppressed people on the Arab and Muslim countries to unify their ranks and take proper action to save the holy land and its people from aggression and occupation. For its part Jordan has been striving to unify the Arabs and pool their efforts and has succeeded during the Amman summit meeting to arrive at a pan-Arab agreement and consensus on means of strengthening the Arab Nation. But there is need now for developing the consensus and promoting collective Arab action for saving the holy city and its people and ending occupation. In a speech delivered on Wednesday in Zarqa, King Hussein reiterated that Jordan is still committed to helping the Palestinian people regain their rights. Jordan, he said, is still committed to the 1950 unity between the two banks of the River Jordan and continues to seek a lasting peace that can ensure the rights of the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour: Uprising escalates

THE uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is becoming more and more difficult for Israel to control and liquidate, despite the different forms of terrorist actions practiced on the Arab people. It is no secret that all classes and all categories of people are involved in the uprising and in the daily confrontations with the Israeli troops. The uprising is of the making of the whole people whom Israel can not disregard any more, and whose rights should be recognised. Unless Israel realises this fact and unless it recognises the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland it will continue to face a revolt and an uprising, and also total isolation from the rest of the world. Though Israel is not showing any sign that it will give in to the demands of the Arab people, the continuation of the uprising and its escalation day by day, will eventually force the Israeli enemy to recognise the rights of the oppressed people in their country and their land. The continuation of the uprising will soon bring about a total collapse of Israel's arbitrary actions and oppression and inhuman practices.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel escalates oppression

ISRAEL is escalating its arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people under its rule at a time when the Arabs are involved in a process of unifying their ranks and consolidating their solidarity in the face of external threat. Israel which is supported by the United States is maintaining its aggression on the Arabs in the occupied lands by demolishing Arab homes, detaining Arab youths and deporting Arab citizens from their homeland. At the same time Israel is being helped in its conspiracies against the Arabs by the Iranians who continue to export acts of terror and sabotage to the Arab World and to maintain a hostile attitude towards the Arab Nation. By hijacking passenger planes, planting bombs in Kuwait and launching attacks on countries in the Arab Gulf region, and by issuing threats against Saudi Arabia, Iran is assisting Israel in its drive to suppress the Arab revolt and stifle the Arab resistance.

'Palestinians will build a democracy'

By Ibrahim Abu Lughod

EVANSTON, Illinois — Under a Palestinian state, which surely will be democratic and secular, Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews will be bonded in a political order not yet experienced in the Middle East.

The West must accept a Palestinian state as inevitable. After all, the Palestinian Arabs' struggle for independence and sovereignty is historic. Now in its seventh decade, it precedes the existence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Neither the British denial of Palestinian Arabs' self-determination between 1917 and 1948 nor Israel's savage repression, expulsions and attempted decapitation of the movement have weakened the urgency of that drive.

Why can other countries, especially Israel, expect a democratically run state? Let me explain.

Palestinians have succeeded in maintaining their national consensus and sustaining their national, regional and international activities by a system of democratic politics.

As a community whose destiny was in the hands of others, the Palestinian Arabs in the 1960s began forging the national consensus which today underlies their political action.

They insist on their right to a territorial and cultural identity. That right to independent statehood and its implementation by all legitimate means — state and individual terrorism are illegitimate — is internationally sanctioned.

Their right to representation by their freely designated representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was first acknowledged by the Arab states at the Rabat summit in 1974 and has subsequently been affirmed

almost universally.

In the struggle to translate their consensus into reality, the Palestinian Arabs have created institutions that organise and mobilise a dispersed population, nourish their identity and promote the achievement of their political programme.

In creating these institutions — for example, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (a kind of Red Cross) and Samed Enterprises (a network of small industries) — they offer a vision of a Palestine shared with Israel's Jewish society. The precise mode of sharing will be freely decided by both peoples.

They practise consensual politics — unique in the Arab region — in which each Palestinian, separately or organised, voluntarily participates in the political process. Organised in various unions — trade, teacher, student, writer, artist, engineer, etc. —

and in openly political movements (el-Fatch, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Palestinian Arabs designate representatives to their principal national political institution, the Palestine National Council.

The council is the equivalent of the U.S. Congress. Its 428 members, drawn from all corners of the world, represent all social, political and economic strata of Palestinian Arab society. It is the most representative political assembly in the Arab region and the most deliberative in its open, highly attended annual sessions. Not a single decision relating to the Palestinian Arab people can be adopted by any group or groups secretly; none can be imposed.

The two million Palestinians who have endured Israel's military occupation since 1967 are fully conscious of the significance

of post-World War II decolonisation. For more than four months, those on the West Bank and in Gaza have been engaged in an uprising unprecedented in its militancy among the Palestinian Arabs to end their colonised status and achieve sovereignty.

Consider the Palestinian Arabs' transformation in the 40 years since Israel has emerged on portions of their national homeland. They were a mainly rural people, with a modest literacy rate, who were incompetently led and out-organised and out-disciplined by a determined adversary whose moral claim on the world and position in the international community gave it enormous moral, political and material leverage.

Today, despite exile, statelessness and subjugation, Palestinians are as cohesive and socially and educationally accomplished

as the best Arab community in the Middle East, and they compare favourably with other achieving nations.

The new state will have the herculean tasks of reintegrating the dispersed Palestinian Arabs and transforming the conflict with Israel into peaceful and equal coexistence, while also contributing to the peaceful evolution of the entire region.

It is futile to deny the Palestinian Arabs their independence — and to try to frustrate an emerging democratic order of all Middle Eastern peoples and states.

The writer, a member of the Palestine National Council, is a professor of political science and chairman of the political science department at Northwestern University. His comment is reprinted from The New York Times.

India moves to seal frontier with Pakistan

By Raju Gopalakrishnan
The Associated Press

DHINDA, India — A lonely trooper standing watch in a wheat field symbolises India's latest effort to seal the border with Pakistan and prevent arms smuggling, that it says is fuelling the Sikh separatist movement in Punjab state.

India has accused Pakistan of facilitating "narco-terrorism" by which the Sikh militants fund arms supplies with heroin smuggling. Pakistan denies the allegation.

New Delhi's concern about the porous border has risen as Soviet troops prepare to withdraw from Afghanistan. New Delhi fears that any de-escalation of fighting there will raise the availability of black market weaponry to the Sikh radicals.

Earlier this month, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered 3,000 more men to police the border in Punjab, raising the frontier force to 18,000. He also directed Punjab state to begin building a fence along the frontier.

Even border guards doubt this will stop the illegal traffic. "Sealing the border is not like licking and sealing an envelope," says Jasmer Singh, a senior officer in India's border security force. "It is impossible to completely stop trans-border movement."

The border stretches for 554 kilometres along the Punjab in a zigzag line scrawled when the sub-continent was partitioned into India and Pakistan by the British in 1947.

Smuggling has been the avocation of the region, with Pakistan's lower-priced gold and textiles finding eager markets in India.

Narcotics for arms

In recent years, the smugglers have added more lucrative merchandise: Narcotics and automatic rifles.

Sikh militants, involved both as smugglers and buyers, need the arms to sustain their six-year guerrilla campaign for an independent Sikh homeland in Punjab. So far this year, they have slain more than 800 people.

Punjab police say most of the killings have been carried out with Chinese-made AK-47 rifles diverted from the Afghan rebels. Since early this year, the extremists have added rocket-propelled grenades and shoulder-fired, anti-aircraft missiles to their arsenal.

In Islamabad, President Zia Ul Haq has denied any aid or support to the Sikh militants. Gandhi

has nonetheless continued to accuse its rival neighbour of both harbouring the extremists and even providing cover fire when they make their border crossings.

Rugged terrain makes the frontier difficult to seal.

In some places, like Dhinda on the northern-most tip of Punjab, farmers cultivate land right up to the border, which often is marked only by a short white pillar.

Here, a Pakistani wheat field straddles the Indian field ends. Singh, the border security officer, asked: "How can we stop two farmers sharing a hookah (pipe) and exchanging packets?"

In other border areas, clusters of 6-foot elephant grass block vision and make clandestine movement easy. At some places, river valleys and shifting tributaries make it difficult to even demarcate the frontier.

India's border policing efforts include observation towers about 2 kilometres apart. Patrols stay within 500 metres of each other and after dark, border troops have night-vision binoculars and searchlights to help spot surreptitious movement.

Very expensive

But the searchlights sometimes inexplicably go off, said Chaman Lal, a deputy-inspector general in the border force.

"We suspect it is arranged," he said, adding that the government should provide separate power lines instead of relying on connections from border villages.

D.S. Kalha, the district commissioner at Gurdaspur, one of three Punjab districts bordering Pakistan, talked of even more elaborate projects in store to seal the border.

"The government plans to ban cultivation up to 500 metres from the border and create a no-mans land," he said. "Later, this area will be fenced off and mined."

A major drawback is the cost. Even this month's plans of increasing border troops and installing barbed-wire fence is projected at 8 billion rupees (\$615 million).

Even if security measures succeed in Punjab, smugglers have alternative routes to India.

Jasmer Singh noted that the border in Gujarat state to the south cuts through hard-to-patrol swamps, while in neighbouring Rajasthan state it passes through desert.

"They can bring arms through Rajasthan, where observation posts are set at least 8 kilometres apart," he said. "All they need is a fast camel. And they have faster camels than we have."

Speculation revives about status of Kremlin ideology chief

By Mary Ellen Bortin
Reuters

MOSCOW — Speculation has revived that Kremlin ideology chief Yegor Ligachev may have been the loser in a policy struggle between proponents of broad political reform and conservatives advocating a more cautious approach to change.

The latest speculation was based on his absence — reported by the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda Thursday — from two Moscow meetings devoted to ideology and reform.

The meetings were attended instead by politburo member Alexander Yakovlev, believed to be the closest aide of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ligachev — who has served as the effective number two to Gorbachev since April 1985, with responsibility for ideology — would normally have been expected to attend both meetings.

As historians and writers were meeting in Moscow Wednesday to discuss the ideological thrust of the current re-evaluation of Soviet history, Ligachev was holding talks with South African Communist Party leader Joe Slovo.

Yakovlev, who attended the opening session of the history party, also spoke at a meeting of leading Soviet editors on the role of the media during the current stage of the reform process, Pravda said. Ligachev was again absent.

According to persistent rumours in Moscow, a conflict between Gorbachev and Ligachev erupted after the mid-March publication of a deeply conservative newspaper article defending Josef Stalin and criticising Kremlin reform.

Delayed action?

Ligachev has been portrayed as the inspiration behind the article, which was denounced in Pravda

in early April as a manifesto of enemies of reform.

Ligachev's appearance at a Kremlin rally last week and denials by senior officials that he had lost the ideology job have failed to quench the rumours of his fall from grace.

Diplomats note that former politburo member Boris Yeltsin took part in November 7 Bolshevik revolution celebrations last year, more than two weeks after his ousting at a party central committee plenum which led to his ousting as Moscow city party chief.

Some diplomatic sources say Yakovlev, who handles propaganda and culture on the ruling politburo, appears to have taken over the ideology portfolio for the moment.

Yakovlev is a strong backer of reform and a driving force behind the Kremlin's campaign for glasnost (openness) in the media and culture and the discussion of "blank pages" in the Soviet history.

But diplomats say it is too early to tell whether Yakovlev would inherit the number two Kremlin position if Ligachev is formally shifted at a future central committee plenum.

They say Yakovlev appears at present to be sharing Ligachev's formal duties with Georgy Razumovsky, who handles party personnel and organisational work on the central committee secretariat as well as serving on the politburo.

Ligachev, who said in a Western press interview last year that he chaired the secretariat's meetings, has been in overall charge of party personnel matters.

Some diplomatic sources believe the situation will not become clear before a party conference in late June which will map out reforms of the Soviet political system and may have the power to replace one-fifth of the central committee's members.

De Mita, once seen as reluctant victim, now reform leader

By Barry Moody
Reuters

ROME — When Christian Democrat chief Ciriaco de Mita reluctantly took on the task of forming a new Italian government, many political insiders saw him as a lamb being led to the slaughter.

Now, a month later and after overwhelming parliamentary confidence votes, the 60-year-old southern lawyer has won applause from a surprisingly wide area. Commentators believe he might usher in an era that will change the face of politics.

He is seen as the leading architect of a process of reform, aimed at making Italy more stable, that is backed by a broad front of parties including the powerful opposition Communists (PCI). The Communists see it as a way to end their 40-year exclusion from the effective political process.

De Mita wants to streamline parliamentary and government procedures, cutting out long delays that now obstruct legislation. His most important aim is to create a system of alternating opposition and government groups with well-defined roles rather than the existing situation where a myriad of small parties squabble over unstable coalitions.

Dramatic sea changes are not uncommon in Italy's volatile politics. But the contrast between De Mita's cautious beginnings and his smooth confirmation as prime minister has surprised even poli-

tical veterans. "Either it's a miracle or they are having us on," said the influential Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

Worried de Mita

The worried expression on de Mita's face as he accepted the mandate from President Francesco Cossiga on March 16 was not out of place for a man widely believed to be risking an ambush from enemies both inside and outside his own party.

Indeed, hostile Christian Democrat factions were believed to have engineered his acceptance of the high-risk post in the belief that it would force him to give up the party leadership.

The two jobs are rarely held by the same man and while the leader of the Christian Democrats, Italy's largest party, exerts enormous power, prime ministers have lasted an average of only eight months in the previous 47 postwar governments.

De Mita's arch political rival, Socialist leader Bettino Craxi, was also thought by many to be trying to lead him into a dangerous trap.

Now Craxi, while declaring he "won't sign blank cheques for anyone," has promised "attentive and loyal support."

There are signs in fact that the Socialists are alarmed by de Mita's overtures to the PCI because a true liberation of the Communists from the "ghetto" of opposition would end Craxi's control of the effective balance of power.

Craxi believes that if anybody is to play the Communist card it should be him, at the head of a left-wing alliance.

Cynicism persists, as is natural in Italian politics, about how long de Mita's honeymoon will last once he tries to put his ambitious plans into action.

But he is universally considered to have made a far better start than expected and there is cautious optimism that he might end a year of political turmoil which saw five government crises and premature elections last June.

Part of the explanation for his success is his prestige as party leader, and his skill in cooling the temperature with long patient negotiations to forge a new agreement between the same parties who have ruled for the last seven years — Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals.

Their quarrelling, and especially rivalry between de Mita and Craxi, has caused the instability since early 1987.

But the main reason for de Mita's success is the way in which he has seized the leadership of a process of reform which most of the parties agree is essential to prevent the collapse of Italy's political system.

De Mita declared in his inaugural speech that Italy faced "not a crisis of government... but a crisis of our whole political system."

In his summing up in the lower house confidence debate he added: "Our ambition is to reconstruct the mechanism of gov-

ernment of our country."

The Italian system has been described as "blocked democracy" because of the stagnation caused by the permanent domination of the Christian Democrats, governing in collaboration with small parties, while the Communists, the second largest party, remain confined in opposition.

The instability is seen as a major obstacle to Italy's dynamic economic development, hampering industrialists with a system of public administration and state ownership whose inefficiency is legendary.

Italy's top industrialist, Fiat boss Gianni Agnelli, has strongly backed de Mita's plans for well-defined and alternating groups of government and opposition instead of a myriad of small parties squabbling over unstable coalitions.

An indirect tribute to de Mita's plans also came from an unexpected quarter. Red Brigades guerrillas who killed his top adviser on political reform, Senator Roberto Ruffilli.

In a communique claiming the murder, the Brigades said de Mita's plans were "aimed at making formal democracy as efficient as possible, adapting it to the model in mature European democracies."

Apart from giving voters the choice of ready-made conditions, de Mita aims to "stimulate secret voting in parliament" which currently causes great instability by allowing disgruntled government deputies to side freely with the opposition.

Red Cross assails Israel's use of force

GENEVA (Agencies) — The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has criticised the Israeli government's "disproportionate" use of force against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Cornelio Sommaruga said Friday Andre Pasquier, ICRC director of operations, had met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv this week and pointed out Israeli violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"These are the Palestinian expulsions, destructions of houses and of culture, and the use of certain means for maintaining security which might be disproportionate to the problem," he told a news briefing.

"A country has the right to maintain security in the territory it occupies. But we have observed the Israeli security forces are using weapons of war."

Pasquier, who reports back to Sommaruga Saturday, was unable to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as hoped.

But Sommaruga left open the possibility he would seek an audience with Shamir.

"If needed I shall certainly decide to go myself," he said.

"The situation in the worst since the start of the Israeli occupation 20 years ago."

The death toll in the 20-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is at least 175 Palestinians.

ICRC delegates have visited more than 5,000 Palestinian detainees in the occupied territories since the uprising began Dec. 9 and were monitoring hospitals to ensure medical care was available without discrimination, Sommaruga said.

The all-Swiss body condemned Israel for expelling eight Palestinians from the occupied territories earlier this month, and for expelling four others in January, as violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention which forbids forced transfers.

The ICRC has doubled its number of expatriate delegates in the occupied territories to 40 since last August, due to the tensions there.

Sommaruga said that further reinforcements were being considered, commenting: "Our presence has a dissuasive effect if we are on the spot when events happen."

PoW visits on hold

On the Gulf war, Sommaruga said Red Cross visits to prisoners of war had been put on hold because of "major problems," and that the visits will not resume until the problems are resolved.



Israeli soldiers wearing gas masks and holding shields moving in the occupied West Bank.

"It is important to clarify these major problems before starting visits again," Sommaruga said.

Iran allowed the Red Cross to resume its visits to Iraqi POWs in 1987 after refusing to permit them in 1985 and 1986. ICRC spokesman Carlos Bauver said ICRC delegates made a series of visits to 15 prisoners of war camps in Iran in 1987 and January 1988.

Sommaruga said that more than 7,000 POWs whom the ICRC visited in 1984 were not seen again in 1987. He said the ICRC gave Iran a list of the prisoners' names and is "requesting the Iranian authorities to give us access to or give us information about these prisoners."

The ICRC has also asked for information about some 8,000 Iraqi prisoners who have sent family messages through the Red Cross network but who have never been registered as POWs by Iran, Sommaruga said.

He said there is also a problem with Iraq, namely that no new prisoners have been registered since the beginning of 1987. He said this did not jibe with official Iraqi reports of having captured more Iranians since then.

But ICRC visits to POW camps in Iraq are continuing, he said.

Lebanon to complain about Israeli raids

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon has decided to complain to the U.N. Security Council about an Israeli raid into South Lebanon villages in which 200 villagers were detained, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The daily Al Safir said acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss Friday instructed Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations, Rashid Fakhoury, to submit the official protest.

Hoss also asked Fakhoury to "seek international pressure on Israel to call off its suppressive measures, release the detainees and refrain from interfering in Lebanese affairs."

Al Safir, the independent daily Nahar newspaper and other daily publications said Israeli troops Friday raided 16 villages in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon and rounded up about 200 Lebanese villagers.

Al Safir said the raid came after inhabitants refused to join the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and allow the formation of Israeli-sponsored "civil administrations" to run their affairs.

Al Nahar said that as the Israeli unit stormed into the villages, Israeli jets flew low over Mount Hermon, where the Lebanese, Syrian and Israeli borders meet.

The paper quoted unnamed witnesses as saying the Syrians fired a Soviet-made surface-to-air missile at "a formation of Israeli warplanes that tried to approach the Syrian border." It said the projectile was a SAM-6.

"The Israeli warplanes dropped hot air balloons (to deflect the missile) and flew away towards the occupied territory," the report added.

The paper did not say if the missile was fired from Lebanese or Syrian territory.

Israel Radio said Friday Israeli troops entered two southern villages in the "security zone" and interrogated dozens of residents about two commando infiltrations into Israel in which two Israeli soldiers were killed this week.

S. Arabia rejects American request to inspect missiles

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has rejected an American request to inspect its Chinese missiles for nuclear or chemical warheads, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz has revealed.

The minister, in an interview with the London-based Lebanese Al Sayyad magazine, said Washington had been told the matter was only Riyadh's concern.

The weekly, which appeared on the newsstands in Beirut Friday, did not say when the interview took place.

"The Americans said they wanted to inspect the missiles to see whether they carried nuclear or chemical warheads. We said no never, we will not allow you," the minister said.

He said his government told the U.S. administration: "We buy weapons from you and the only condition of the purchase

contracts is that we don't give these weapons to a third country, other than that the matter is our concern only."

Prince Sultan said Riyadh purchased the CSS-2 medium-range missiles two years ago and asserted that the missiles did not carry nuclear warheads, saying: "We are against nuclear weapons."

Last Tuesday, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Riyadh had decided to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The decision was taken at a Monday cabinet meeting chaired by King Fahd.

Prince Sultan added: "Some think we are hostages to America

in the purchase of weapons and they even say we are hostages to American policy. We don't need to answer this, the purchase of the Chinese missiles is the answer."

The purchase of the surface-to-surface missiles was revealed in March and China then confirmed it had sold an undisclosed number of missiles to Riyadh.

Washington has voiced unhappiness over the Saudi purchase of the missiles, which have a range of 3,500 kilometres.

Gulf-based diplomats see the Saudi purchase to be a warning to Iran not to extend its missile war beyond Iraqi targets.

King Fahd, in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper published Thursday, said Saudi Arabia was prepared if necessary to use the missiles to defend itself against Iran.

Muslim leader delays accepting award

NEW YORK (AP) — The postponement in giving the 1988 Templeton Prize for progress in religion to Muslim leader Inamullah Khan was at his request after some Jewish leaders accused him of anti-Semitism, officials say.

"He himself asked for the delay so assurances could be given that the charges were not valid," says the Rev. Wilbert Forker, of the Bahamas, vice president of the Templeton Foundation.

He said the postponement was ordered April 5 and the inquiry was not likely to be concluded until mid-summer.

Charges that Khan was anti-Semitic came after he was named in March to receive the \$390,000 prize for advancing cooperation among Muslims, Christians and Jews.

It had been scheduled for presentation May 10 in London.

Khan, 73, of Karachi, Pakistan, secretary-general of the World Muslim Congress, said in a letter to the prize office: "I request that the prize cere-

mony be delayed, if necessary for several months, to allow full assurances to be given to the Templeton judges and the public to clear away unfounded accusations and misunderstandings."

The criticisms were raised by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which alleged past anti-Jewish comments by Muslim Congress officers and in its newsletter.

Khan replied: "The allegation that the World Muslim Congress ever issued or mailed from its office any anti-Semitic literature is a palpable falsehood."

The New York Times said a congress newsletter in the 1970s advertised the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a anti-Jewish forgery, and carried other anti-Jewish tracts.

In a lengthy memorandum, answering questions relayed to him by the New York Times, Khan said:

"I can never support anti-Semitic feelings because I am myself a descendant of Semitic ancestors

from the Middle East... I respect Jews as 'people of the book'; I respect Moses as a prophet of God."

However, mentioning a point that outrages Jews — the United Nations classifying of Zionism as racism — Khan added:

"My difference is with the Zionists because the U.N. General Assembly has declared Zionism a racist creed."

Noting that he is a president of the inter-faith World Conference of Religion and Peace, he said, "I have consistently preached inter-religious concord and understanding and promoted inter-faith meetings."

William P. Thompson, associate general secretary of the inter-faith conference, observed of the controversy:

"The prize is not because the winner is a saint but because he has made some religious progress. Khan has made some remarkable strides toward greater openness to other religions and respect for them."

Locust threat could spread to Near East

ROME (AP) — If unchecked, swarms of desert locusts devouring crops in North Africa might spread to East Africa, the Near East, Pakistan and India, United Nations officials said Friday.

"If the swarms spread, extraordinary efforts will be needed to avert major food losses," U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Director-General Edouard Saouma said in a statement.

U.N. experts said a swarm covering one square kilometre can contain 50 million insects, weigh a total of 100 tons and eat its weight in fresh vegetation each day.

Dr. Lukas Brader, who heads the agency's emergency centre for locust operations, said the African locust infestations is as big as the one in the 1950s that took 13 years to control.

The plague originally spread over Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya. Now the experts said it extends from the periphery of the Mediterranean basin in the

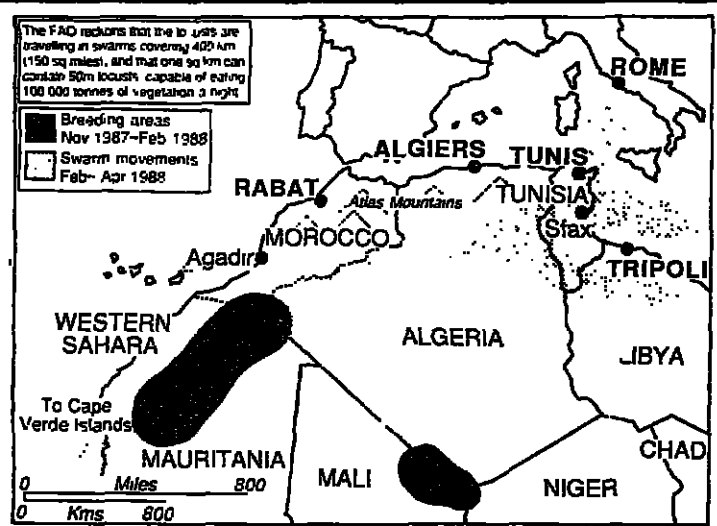
north, to the Sahel in the South and West to Mali and Senegal. "During the past week, we have had reports of breeding in Cape Verde for the first time ever," said Brader. "There is also a small but worrisome desert locust presence in Saudi Arabia. Thus, there is activity on both sides of the invasion area — west and east."

Saouma said in his statement that the locusts in northwest Africa and the Sahel were breeding at an alarming rate and could pose a threat to crops in other areas.

"The current plague, unless checked, could spread to East Africa, the Near East, Pakistan, and India in the next one to one and a half years," said Saouma.

Although some dead locusts have washed up on Italian beaches, the agency said the chances of the insects posing a danger to southern Europe are remote.

Saouma said with a recent \$10-million contribution from the



Islamic Development Bank, there is \$40 million in a fund for an international campaign that is coordinated by the agency.

However, Brader said the overall cost of the campaign could exceed \$150 million.

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia also have agreed to establish a common fund to fight the plague in a closely coordinated programme," Saouma said.

Currently, thousands of people and a fleet of more than 90

aircraft are involved in daily control operations in North and West Africa.

The agency's emergency centre said about 3 million hectares have been sprayed and at least two million hectares may need to be sprayed in the next few months.

The centre said that for the time being, major agricultural areas in affected countries have been relatively spared. But it said the threat to crops is particularly great in the Sahel and West Africa.

Radicals score gains in Iranian elections

(Continued from page 1)

of Iran's pilgrimage bureau who is believed to have masterminded riots in the Holy City of Mecca last July. Karroubi, a middle-ranking cleric, heads a radical group called Militant Clergymen.

According to figures released by the Interior Ministry and broadcast by Tehran Radio, Karroubi received 971,752 votes in his Tehran constituency, second only to Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the most powerful figures in Iran.

Rafsanjani, a close adviser to Khomeini, took more than 1.3 million votes, the highest single vote total announced so far.

Although the final make-up of the Majlis remains incomplete, the first-round voting appears to have bolstered both Rafsanjani, who favours economic reforms, and Prime Minister Hussein Musavi.

Musavi's radicals held a slim majority in the last Majlis. But he got a big boost from Khomeini a few weeks before the April 8 election.

Khomeini, apparently seeking to break a legislative logjam he feared was paralysing the government and delaying badly needed economic reforms, decreed sweeping powers for the government aimed at increasing state control of the economy, as advocated by Musavi.

Among other radicals who won were Atefe Sedighi Rajai, widow of the late President Mohammad Ali Rajai, and one of 35 women among the 1,700 candidates.

Rajai was assassinated with Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahravar, when leftist opponents of Khomeini bombed Bahravar's office Aug. 31, 1981.

Another winner was Hadi Ghafari, a key figure in forming Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards.

He was among the winners in 14 of the 30 Tehran districts where final results were

announced, along with Fakhreddin Hejazi, another conservative who got more than 700,000 votes, and former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Salamati, with more than 500,000.

One of the winners in Qom was Hojatolislam Sadeq Khalkali, a former Islamic judge who ordered the execution of hundreds of people by firing squad or hanging in the bloody early days of the revolution. Tehran Radio said he polled nearly 200,000 votes in the first ballot.

Several leading conservatives were either knocked out of the running or failed to win absolute majorities and now face runoff elections May 13, according to radio reports.

Among them were Rafsanjani's deputy, Mohammad Yazdi, a prominent deputy in the Majlis; and former Commerce Minister Habib Asgariouli.

Former Interior Minister Ayatollah Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, a member of the now-disbanded hardline Islamic Republic Party, failed to get a clear majority and will have to run in the May 13 second round, Tehran Radio said.

Nateq-Nouri, who was also briefly armed forces commander after President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr was ousted in 1982, now heads the Hojati group, an extremist Islamic faction.

Among other notable winners was Mohsen Noorbakhsh, governor of the central bank from 1981 to 1987, who ran for parliament for the first time.

Noorbakhsh, who holds a doctorate degree in economics from the University of California, was backed by a combination of radicals and conservatives.

He was one of several technocrats who entered the parliamentary race for the first time in what was seen as a challenge to the conservative mullahs, whose fundamentalism has hampered economic progress.

Shipping community welcomes expanded U.S. naval protection

(Continued from page 1)

despite an expanded U.S. navy role.

They noted that the Iranians turned to sowing mines in the waterway when expanding coastal protection by the littoral states of the escort policies curtailed their ability to raid shipping.

"Who's to prevent the Iranians sowing hundreds of mines in the waterway? They manufacture them," said one. "Who's to prevent them firing Silkworm anti-ship missiles at a convoy moving through the Hormuz?"

They will be ready to take in stride the U.S. navy taking on all their missile batteries there. In the end it's the United States that will be the loser, finding itself in a state of war.

Others, noting that U.S. officials said the new policy did not mean a "tilt" towards Iraq, wondered what Washington would do when the Iraqis attacked ships outside Iranian waters, which has happened once in a while.

Palestinians, settlers clash

(Continued from page 1)

were arrested. "That never happened before," said Siniora. "The intifadah is growing roots."

Mubarak Awad, director of the Centre for the Study of Non-Violence, said: "A lot of journalists think that because there is no stone-throwing or no killing, there is a drop in the intifadah. No way. It's getting worse and worse, but in a different way."

Awad noted the establishment within the past month of committees in towns, villages and refugee camps of the occupied territories to handle local issues, including security, food, agriculture and education.

"If there is a fight or a legal problem, the committee will take care of it instead of going to court," said Awad.

He said the uprising "is less

"The best attitude to adopt now is a wait-and-see one," said one shipping executive who has often complained that his vessels, mainly flying Asian flags, were left at the mercy of the Iraqis as the big powers protected their shipping.

"From what has been announced, protection has not been guaranteed for all ships," he said. "It sounds like an elastic policy that will be used by the United States at the right moment, when they choose to take on the Iraqis."

Iran's state-run radio contended Saturday that Washington's decision to extend naval protection in the Gulf proved the United States was backing Iraq.

The radio said in a commentary that the aim of the new policy was to give Iraq "a free hand to attack ships."

"In other words, the new project encompasses all vessels except those that enter or leave Iran's ports," the radio commented.

visible. Not only that, but also it is really including lawyers, doctors, the teachers, everybody."

The Palestinian leaders attributed the decline in visible demonstrations to the Holy Month of Ramadan, when many fast during daylight hours, and to the imprisonment of some 5,000 residents of the occupied territories.

In their latest leaflet, the uprising leaders urged Palestinians to keep up the revolt, warning that "the blood of our martyrs must not be spilled for nothing."

"Boys and girls of Palestine, we need more attacking forces, more going to Palestine," said the leaflet. "Every strike at the body of our enemy will bring the day of victory nearer."

ASALA accuses Turkey of Athens killing

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An anti-Turkish underground group, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), has accused Turkey of killing guerrilla leader Hagop Hagopian in Athens.

Hagopian, shot by two masked gunmen, was identified by the Greek Ministry of Public Order as founder of ASALA which has waged a violent campaign against official Turkish targets for over 15 years.

Police in Athens said they were still hunting for clues on the identity and motives of the gunmen who attacked him in a wealthy seaside suburb Thursday morning while on his way to the airport.

"Pending on information revealed by our security apparatus, we can say that this terrorist act was the doing of imperialist nations and their ally Turkey," ASALA said in a statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut late Friday.

ASALA also said it has started

its own investigations and warned "all countries who aim to take advantage of the assassination that we shall confront them fiercely."

In its statement ASALA identified the victim as Minas Ohannissian, whose nom de guerre was Hagop Hagopian, and said it was his duty to reveal the "executors and plotters of the act" although Hagopian had been ousted from the underground army since 1987.

Armenian sources in Athens said Hagopian founded ASALA in the early 70s and headed the group until 1983.

ASALA has campaigned violently for an independent state in the Armenian region of Turkey and recognition for its allegations that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in eastern Turkey during World War I. Turkey rejects the allegations.

It has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks against Turkish diplomats in Western Europe and the United States.

Hagopian was killed by a gunman who pumped four slugs into his head and chest from a sawed-off shotgun. The attack occurred at 4:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) while he was waiting for a taxi to Athens airport.

Police at first identified the victim as Abdul Mohammad Kasim from the South Yemen diplomatic passport.

Later a police source, who requested anonymity, told AP he had been living in Athens for a year under the name of Henri Titizian and travelling frequently on the South Yemen passport.

The source said Mrs. Titizian was back in the couple's apartment in the old Phaleron suburb with her two-month old baby, and a police guard.

Neighbours said she rented the apartment last summer and that the couple lived quietly with few visitors.

Western diplomatic sources, speaking on condition they not be identified further, said ASALA members moved freely in and out

of Athens, where the organisation's political wing, the Armenian Popular Movement, is based.

The sources said ASALA had been dormant since 1984, but that according to intelligence reports, the group operated training installations in South Yemen.

Hagopian dropped out of sight after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Hagopian's former number two, American archaeologist Monte Melkonian, formed a splinter group called ASALA-Revolutionary Movement after a 1983 attack at Orly, claiming that ASALA had abandoned its original policy of focusing only on Turkish targets.

Turkey denies involvement

Turkey denied Saturday the ASALA claim.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Barin said "such claims are absurd. Turkey never used these methods in dealing with terrorism."

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Chamber of Industry, exporters discuss crisis in trade with Iraq

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abu Hassan held a meeting Saturday with Jordanian manufacturers directly affected by a recent government decision to halt financing Jordanian exports to Iraq after exports exceeded by \$240 million the quota defined by the 1988 trade protocol with Iraq.

Abu Hassan told the Jordan Times the Chamber of Industry was negotiating with the government ways to finance the exports, which have exceeded the \$180 million ceiling allocated in the protocol for manufactured goods.

He said the government was also in touch with the Iraqi government to find a solution to the crisis which has shocked the industrial sector in Jordan and sent share prices of industrial companies at the Amman Financial Market plummeting between 10 and 15 per cent.

The meeting at the Chamber of Industry Saturday was held to assess the dimensions of the problem and elicit recommendations from industrialists to be relayed to the government.

Abu Hassan said a meeting with Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa and Central Bank of Jordan

(CBJ) Governor Hussein Al Qasem is scheduled for Monday at the Chamber of Industry to seek the government's views on the issue on options to finance these exports.

So far, there has been no government comment on the decision by the Central Bank to stop financing Jordanian exports to Iraq. The decision was orally reported to industrial companies during the second half of March.

Several Jordanian industrial firms are now stuck with irrevocable and some long-term unconfirmed letters of credit and have already exported large quantities of manufactured goods or have products in stock.

Industry and Trade Ministry Under-Secretary Mohammad Saqqaf, who held talks on the issue with Iraqi officials earlier this month, is expected to brief indus-

trialists on the outcome of his talks during Monday's meeting.

Under the protocol agreement, the CBJ finances Jordanian exports as a form of payment for imports of Iraqi oil and other commodities. Jordan imports nearly 75 per cent of its oil from Iraq.

The Iraqi Al Rafidain Bank is refusing to accept letters of credit and export documents from Jordanian manufacturers, who now complain that this action was illegal and that such moves on the part of the Iraqi and Jordanian governments "constituted a blow to Jordan's industry and principles of free economy."

During the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Saturday, Abu Hassan said that some irregularities were carried out by some Jordanian exporters, and these contributed to the present crisis.

He said that some of products exported to Iraq were first imported by Jordanian companies and re-exported to Iraq after label changes and added value. Some of these include wood products and automobile spare parts. A Chamber of Industry official said he estimates non-Jordanian manufactured goods exported to Iraq through Jordan to be be-

tween 20 and 30 per cent of the Jordanian exports in the first three months of this year.

The current crisis caught Tabbaa and Qasem in Japan, where they were on an official visit. The two men and other officials returned home last week.

Some manufacturers interviewed by the Jordan Times complained that the concerned authorities were not allowing them to export their goods outside the protocol agreement with Iraq, despite their willingness to take the risk with Iraqi importers.

"I would like to know, is this a free economy or isn't this a free economy," a frustrated manufacturer asked during Saturday's meeting.

One manufacturer asserted that several factories had already laid off between 40 and 60 per cent of employees and reported that at least two manufacturers suffered a nervous breakdown over the crisis.

Abu Hassan said the Chamber of Industry was doing all it can to defend the interests of industrialists and that it was willing to take the initiative with the Iraqi government if such a move was sanctioned by the government here. He said upcoming talks with the government would determine ways to solve the problem.

Vienna oil talks stalled

VIENNA (R) — A powerful group of four Middle East states Saturday stood in the way of an unprecedented agreement between OPEC and six other oil-producing states to control world production and boost sagging prices.

After two nights of bargaining, eight members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have agreed to cut overall oil output by 300,000 barrels per day for two months, starting on May 1.

Their decision was in response to an offer by six states outside the group — Angola, China, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman — to cut exports by five per cent if OPEC reciprocated.

The combined effect of their initiative and OPEC's response would be to remove about 500,000 barrels a day from the world market, oil industry analysts estimate.

But Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, backed by Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, asked for time to consider their positions and report back to a third night of OPEC negotiations Sunday.

Both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have argued that OPEC, whose members now produce about 18 million barrels of oil a day compared with over 30 million in the late 1970s, has made enough sacrifices and lost its market share.

Iraq has refused any limitations because its original quota was smaller than fellow OPEC member and Gulf war enemy Iran.

Iraq is currently pumping about 2.5 million barrels of oil a day. Although its Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalibi is attending the OPEC conference, he has so far shown no sign of joining an agreement with the non-OPEC states.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said in a newspaper interview last week he thought it would be enough for OPEC to reinforce discipline to ensure the 12 of its 13 members who accept output quotas did not exceed their ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day.

But Venezuela's Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti reflected the view of other OPEC states when he said that some members had been cheating for years and were unlikely to stop.

Conference sources said there was still a strong possibility the four Gulf states would eventually endorse the proposal, by Algerian Oil Minister Belkacem Nabi, to cut output by 300,000 barrels a day.

Asked if Saudi Arabia had expressed opposition to the plan, Gabon's Oil Minister Etienne Guy Mouvanga-Tchioba told reporters: "No. They are in a holding pattern."

Oil prices rallied strongly on the announcement three weeks ago of the meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC states, sending benchmark North Sea Brent crude oil surging towards \$18 a barrel.

But prices had tumbled below \$17 before Friday's session as traders began to doubt OPEC's ability to make a serious response to the challenge from the independents.

Renowned banking centre suffers severe setback

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Panama's international banking centre, once a safe haven for money from throughout the world, has been badly damaged by a nearly two-month shutdown that shows no signs of ending.

Indeed, bankers worry that the multi-billion dollar banking system may never recover from the blow dealt by the nation's political woes.

Frightened investors have pulled billions of dollars out of the banking centre, and bankers are anxiously studying their options.

"I assume... (bankers) would be thinking about leaving the country because they can't do much business right now," said Edgardo Lasso, president of the Banking Association of Panama, which represents 93 of the 117 mostly foreign banks operating here.

Eiichi Motoshige, general manager of the local branch of Japan's giant Sumitomo Bank, said: "Each bank is very, very seriously considering what we can do for the immediate future."

High risk

"The biggest problem," he said, "is that nobody likes to place any funds here... because of the risk."

A banker in the United States whose institution has a Panama office said: "the confidence of

bankers and depositors worldwide... has been shattered." He spoke on condition of anonymity.

That wasn't always the case. Not so long ago, the tiny country attracted money from investors throughout the world, who were often drawn by secrecy provisions that strictly limit disclosure of information to foreign courts, governments and other third parties.

Many South American and European clients wanted to shield their money from prying governments.

They also were attracted by the nation's use of the U.S. dollar as its currency and its prominent free trade zone.

Up until last June, it also offered investors political stability.

But a wave of sometimes-violent demonstrations against the rule of military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega has shaken confidence in the system.

On March 3, the government ordered the shutdown of 67 banks holding licences to conduct both local and international banking business.

Their closure, which paralysed the entire banking centre, occurred after the U.S. government froze about \$50 million of Panamanian government money in U.S. banks.

The shortage prevented the National Bank of Panama from providing the dozen locally owned banks with enough money to cover a run on deposits that began Feb. 26.

That was the day Noriega ousted the president, Eric Arturo Delvalle. The day before, Delvalle had tried to fire Noriega.

Since then, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration has imposed sweeping sanctions on Panama in an effort to get rid of Noriega, who is under indictment in the United States on drug trafficking charges.

Assets tumble

Analysts cite government figures that show assets held by the banking centre tumbled from \$40.3 billion at the end of 1986 to \$31.4 billion at the end of 1987.

"There was a massive reduction in assets beginning in June," said Luis Luis, Latin American director of the Institute of International Finance in Washington, D.C.

"There must have been further shrinkage of assets in the first quarter (of this year)," he said. Motoshige said: "So many banks, including ourselves, have had to move our assets outside."

"Depositors," he said, "did not want to keep money here."

About three-quarters of the centre's assets, or roughly \$25 billion, were in off-shore activities at the end of last year.

Money in off-shore activities, those that take place outside of Panama, can be easily moved to competing banking centres in Miami, the Bahamas, Grand Cayman Island in the British West Indies and elsewhere.

Analysts have no figures on how much money has left the banking system so far this year. Estimates vary widely from a

few billion dollars to more than \$10 billion.

One financial analyst, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "They will be lucky if they come out of this with \$5 billion in off-shore banking."

Regaining confidence

Requests for interviews with officials of the National Banking Commission, a regulatory agency, were ignored.

Bankers say that only after the nation's political troubles are settled can the centre begin the slow healing process.

"There would have to be several changes in the government," said Lasso, who also is general manager of the local branch of Banco Internacional De Costa Rica.

"People would have to start getting confidence back in their people handling the government and that could take... months," he said.

The National Banking Commission has been trying to ease the situation.

On April 18, it allowed the banks to begin accepting deposits from customers. But it restricted the amount of money that could be drawn on the balance in checking accounts as of March 3.

As a result, analysts say, about three-quarters of the newly deposited checks were returned for insufficient funds.

A week later, the commission allowed banks to resume a dozen additional services, including handling letters of credit, collecting outstanding loans, transferring funds within the country and making foreign exchange transactions.

Clients still cannot withdraw cash from their accounts, and bankers fear a premature reopening of their institutions would trigger another run.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, April 23, '88 and ending Wednesday, April 27, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	800	1119	1.360	1.400	1.000
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	220	367	1.640	1.670	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	4150	6118	1.450	1.450	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	21257	23876	1.140	1.130	1.000
Housing Bank	100	171	1.680	1.710	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Caaro Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	949	13985	14.800	14.750	5.000
Arab Bank	230	26253	114.000	114.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	3498	8712	2.470	2.500	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	1700	1989	1.200	1.170	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	50543	81404	1.880	1.870	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	4500	2325	0.550	0.500	1.000
National Financial Investments	5950	10710	1.800	1.800	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	1850	1285	0.710	0.690	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	28900	37612	1.270	1.320	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	175	138	0.770	0.790	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
RESCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	51290	52311	1.010	1.100	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	6490	6879	1.060	1.060	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphian Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	500	470	0.940	0.940	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	100	129	1.260	1.290	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Fidhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	303	382	1.230	1.260	1.000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	16150	6543	0.420	0.400	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	100	37	0.390	0.370	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	350	107	0.320	0.300	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	14000	1865	0.650	0.630	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	1700	411	0.760	0.740	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	1500	267	0.190	0.190	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	4693	6783	1.440	1.450	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	105	263	2.500	2.500	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	750	592	0.810	0.780	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	5000	1830	0.370	0.370	1.000
Jordan Dairy	5650	5577	1.000	0.980	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	9179	17846	1.930	1.950	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	131654	157516	1.290	1.220	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	17188	23016	1.340	1.300	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Inta)	1450	5660	3.910	3.910	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	8050	10575	1.340	1.280	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	23900	41344	1.710	1.770	1.000
Jordan Worst Mills	150	653	4.300	4.350	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	900	909	1.010	1.010	1.000
Ceramic Industries	13170	18651	1.550	1.330	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	10500	6277	0.630	0.590	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	540	761	1.420	1.410	1.000
National Steel Industries	4800	12969	2.720	2.710	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	58625	81913	1.570	1.420	5.000
General Mining	100	122	1.350	1.220	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	892	6271	7.020	7.040	1.000
National Industries	74400	14544	0.210	0.190	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	50	18	0.330	0.360	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	1850	2147	1.180	1.160	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	1500	1710	1.140	1.140	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	2844	8350	3.020	2.950	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	11350	5888	0.540	0.520	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	6700	6444	0.970	0.960	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	38487	29054	0.810	0.760	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	19100	44546	2.660	2.540	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	29027	30188	1.040	1.040	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	2603	2343	0.910	0.900	1.000
Grand total	702,512	830,225			

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 30, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	150764	JD 185746	256
Top three companies:			
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	29000	JD 36109	65
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	15100	JD 26489	9
Jordan Cement Factories	20357	JD 21171	12
Parallel market:	51465	JD 23658	—
Development bonds:	380	4002	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

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هولاء من الـ ١٠

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Barnes named footballer of the year

LONDON (R) — Liverpool and English winger John Barnes was voted footballer of the year by the English Football Writers' Association Saturday. Barnes, named earlier this month player of the year by his fellow professionals, and his club captain Alan Hansen collected 96 per cent of the votes. Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish said: "I can't work out who the other four per cent voted for."

Leconte defeats Becker to advance to finals

HAMBURG (AP) — France's Henri Leconte defeated Boris Becker of West Germany 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2) Saturday to advance to the finals of the \$602,500 German Open tennis tournament. Leconte will now meet the winner of the other semi-final match Saturday between Sweden's Kent Carlsson and Spain's Jorge Arrese. After the match, Leconte said he was pleased with his play. "I feel great. It was the first time I beat Boris and I'm pleased to have done it in Germany," Leconte said. "It was a big match for me," Leconte added.

USOC selects Atlanta as Olympic venue

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) Friday selected Atlanta as the country's host city candidate for the 1996 Summer Olympics. Atlanta, in its initial bid to host an Olympic Games, was chosen over Minneapolis-St. Paul in a silent vote by the USOC executive board. After receiving interest from 14 cities in January 1987, the USOC eventually narrowed the field to the two finalists before making its decision. Atlanta will soon join Toronto, Athens, Greece and Belgrade, Yugoslavia as the only cities that have thus far submitted bids to host the 1996 games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will name its choice in the fall of 1990.

Waddock proves doctors wrong

CHARLEROI, Belgium (R) — Gary Waddock, the former Irish international and Queen's Park Rangers player rated too badly injured to remain in top flight soccer a year ago, has proved doctors wrong. After injuring his knee in a league match in November 1985, flame-haired Waddock was in plaster for three months. "It was just an ordinary tackle," he told Reuters. He resumed playing in August 1986 and was briefly recalled to the Rangers' first team early in 1987. "But the insurance doctor said I would never make it back to the top," he said. The insurance company agreed to compensate the club but as a result Waddock was barred from playing in the English League. "But I didn't want to retire," Waddock said. He fought back to become the midfield dynamo of Belgian first division club Charleroi just one year later.



BIG LOSS: Al Ahli eliminated Al Karmil 2-1. Al Hussein meets holders Al Faisali Saturday night in a football match played within the day night. Both clubs, Al Hussein and Al Faisali are playing the second round match.

Senna takes pole position for San Marino Grand Prix motor race

IMOLA, Italy (AP) — Brazilian Ayrton Senna gained the pole position for Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix driving his turbocharged McLaren-Honda car in the fastest qualifying lap during Saturday's final practice session. The 28-year-old Brazilian turned the 5.04-kilometre (3.13-mile) course at the Dino Ferrari Autodrome in Imola in 1:27.148 minutes at an average speed of 208.198 kmph (129.368 mph). France's Alain Prost, who had been the fastest in Friday's practice, came in second in another McLaren-Honda, in 1:27.919, and will start Sunday's race in front row, at the side of his Brazilian teammate. It was the second pole position for Senna in as many races this year — the 18th of his career.

Brazilian world champion Nelson Piquet had the third best time in a Lotus-Honda. However he lagged more than three seconds behind the McLaren Duo, with a time of 1:30.500 minutes.

Italy's Alessandro Nannini was the best performer among the naturally-aspirated racers, in fourth place. He drove his Benetton-Ford in 1:30.59 minutes, ahead of Gerhard Berger, the Austrian driver of Ferrari.

Senna, using slick tires on a dry track, was 14 seconds faster than Prost's time of Friday, when drivers used rain tires on a wet asphalt. However, he still was 1.3 seconds off the fastest qualifying lap he had clocked here last year.

He has won four consecutive pole positions at the Imola circuit.

Orioles end losing streak

CHICAGO (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles ended their 21-game losing streak Friday night by winning their first game of the season, 9-0 over the Chicago White Sox on a four-hitter by Mark Williamson and Dave Schmidt.

Baltimore manager Frank Robinson predicted this week that it would take a shutout to end the Orioles' skid, and they got it as only one Chicago runner got past first base. Williamson, 1-0, allowed three hits over six innings in his fourth big league start and Schmidt finished for a save.

Eddie Murray's two-run homer in the first inning got the Orioles standing and cheering in the dugout, and this time they couldn't find a way to lose. Cal Ripken went 4-for-5 with a homer and double, and rookie Pete Stanicek, promoted from the minors earlier in the day, singled and scored in the fifth and sparked a four-run seventh with an RBI double.

The Orioles, who established the longest losing streak in American League history with Thursday's defeat in Minnesota, stopped short of the major league mark of 23 consecutive losses by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1961.

Baltimore won all six games at Comiskey Park last season, and three cases of champagne were on ice and waiting for the Orioles in their clubhouse after this victory. It was their reward for ending the worst start in major league history and a team-record losing streak. Baltimore also had lost its final five exhibition games.

A crowd of 14,059 sat quietly in 56-degree (13-degree Celsius) weather as Baltimore stopped its march of misery.

Robinson had watched his club go 0-15 after replacing the fired Cal Ripken Sr.

Davis to sail for New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — San Diego-born Rod Davis, the sail master for the New Zealand America's Cup challenger, has no qualms about trying to wrest yachting's oldest and most prestigious prize from his former hometown sailing club.

In fact, Davis, who now calls Auckland home, is relishing the idea of returning to his old stamping ground to take on Sail America and the San Diego Yacht Club.

Davis, 33, a former car racer and one of the world's most experienced sailors, says he expects "a few rumbles, but there always are."

"My home's here now," Davis, who has applied for New Zealand citizenship, said Saturday.

"I grew up in San Diego but that doesn't mean you have to play in that baseball team, or you can't play in any other baseball team."

Davis said he was happy with the way the New Zealand Challenge Syndicate's 90-foot (27-metre) waterline yacht, the biggest built for a cup series in more than 50 years, had progressed during trials here.

NBA Playoff

Celtics keep old tradition intact

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Celtics, who haven't lost a first-round playoff series since 1956, looked like they were in for a tough battle for awhile Friday night.

But a 32-9 second-half spurt led by Kevin McHale turned a 74-71 deficit into a 103-83 Boston lead, and the Celtics went on to defeat the New York Knicks 112-92 in their National Basketball Association (NBA) playoff opener Friday night.

McHale scored 12 of his 29 points during the second-half surge, and Larry Bird also scored 29 for the Celtics.

In other playoff openers Friday night, Atlanta edged Milwaukee 110-107 and Denver beat Seattle 126-123. The Los Angeles Lakers played host to San Antonio in a late game.

On Saturday, it's Houston at Dallas, Washington at Detroit and Utah at Portland. Sunday's games have New York at Boston, Cleveland at Chicago, Seattle at Denver, Milwaukee at Atlanta and San Antonio at Los Angeles.

Hawks 110, Bucks 107

In Atlanta, Kevin Willis hit four straight free throws in the final 1:22 as Atlanta overcame a 14-point deficit in the second half and edged Milwaukee.

The Bucks took the lead for the last time at 93-92 on a jumper by Paul Presley with 6:22 left. Dominique Wilkins, who led Atlanta with 26 points, then put the Hawks ahead to stay with 6:09 to go.

The Bucks, however, stayed close down the stretch before Willis, who had 22 points, hit two free throws for a 104-101 lead with 1:22 left.

Nuggets 126, Sonics 123

In Denver, Lafayette Lever hit an 18-foot baseline jumper with 22 seconds left and added a pair of free throws with 10 seconds remaining, lifting Denver over Seattle.

The Nuggets, relying on a decisive free-throw advantage that saw them outscore the Sonics 41-21 from the line, rebounded from a 15-point second-quarter deficit.

Lever gave Denver its first lead of the second half, 120-119, with two free throws with 2:27 left. Sonics rookie Derrick McKey hit a free throw at 1:22 to produce a 120-120 tie, but Alex English then scored on a short jumper 17 seconds later, giving Denver the lead for good.

Lakers 122, Spurs 110

In Inglewood, California, James Worthy scored 22 points and Kurt Rambis had 19 Friday night as the Los Angeles Lakers opened the NBA playoffs with a 122-110 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

The defending champion Lakers, beginning their drive to become the first team in 19 years to win consecutive NBA titles, built a 60-49 lead in the second quarter and were comfortably in front the rest of the way.

The second game of the best-of-five series is Sunday night at the forum. The series then shifts to San Antonio, with the third game scheduled Tuesday night.

Shriver faces Sukova today

TOKYO (R) — Top-seeded Pam Shriver fought back to beat fast-improving Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 Saturday, advancing to the final of the \$300,000 Japan Open women's tennis tournament.

Fifth-seeded Savchenko, 21, unnerved American Shriver, world ranked fourth, with her rifling returns of serve low and fast over the net. A blistering backhand ace landing inches inside the sideline clinched Savchenko the first tie-break 11-9.

But Shriver, looking for her first singles tournament title in Japan, rallied back, punching through 10 service winners.

"The real turning point was when the score was 2-3 in the third and I was serving at 40-0 down," said Shriver. "I just hung on and it worked."

Shriver, 25, faces six-foot-two-inches (1.88 m) Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in Sunday's final.

Sukova overcame arch-rival Manuela Maleeva 7-6, 4-6, 6-3. She won the tie-break 7-1.

That was the first time Sukova has beaten Bulgarian Maleeva in four encounters since 1982.

Sukova, ranked one place behind Maleeva at seventh in the world, said her serve and volley game proved too strong for the Bulgarian's baseline tactics.

"She stayed back on the baseline. So I had a chance to recover even from her good serves," said Sukova.

But Sukova gave no predictions on the result of Sunday's final against Pam Shriver who is also a master of the serve and volley game.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9 ♠ Q982 ♠ J743 ♠ 1054
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♠ DBI 1 ♠
Pass Pass DBI Pass
2
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9 ♠ K10752 ♠ AQ43 ♠ J62
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass
3 ♠ DBI ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K9 ♠ A72 ♠ K3 ♠ AKQJ62
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass
?
What do you bid now?

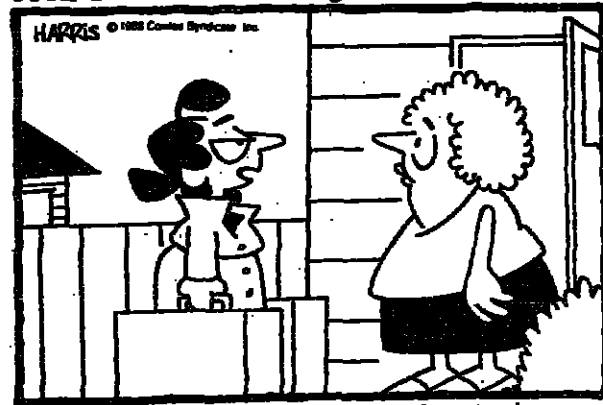
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you

The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A103 ♠ AK6 ♠ J762 ♠ 987
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Stanley started his garden today. He planted the seeds of discontent in my heart!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TILEE
LOFEN
RYNTIG
CALHUN

WHEN HE FINALLY GOT THE FIRE-PLACE WORKING, SHE WAS THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ○○○○○○-○○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: MIRTH SWISH HEIFER BIGAMY

Answer: How to find out if your watch is gaining—WEGH IT

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Rieger Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Many changes in attitudes and situations are likely today, so you would be wise to remain very alert and consider the ramifications of all your actions. This is not the time to take any risks on long shots.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you have a new financial plan in mind, consult with an expert before you put it in motion. Avoid getting into any arguments tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Drop any acquaintances who have consistently let you down when you have depended on them, but be grateful to those who are loyal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A private worry which has been hindering your progress can be handled easily now. Don't rush around when traveling.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't allow yourself to become involved in an argument between your mate and a friend. Don't make assumptions today.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Decisions you make today will be rather far-reaching in their implications, so be sure you make only wise ones. Don't rely on your intuition.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You would be wise to focus your attention on family matters today, so plan something you can all do together this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A thoughtful attitude with your mate could bring about a bad quarrel, as this person has been feeling somewhat distant lately.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A business acquaintance is just as stubborn as you are, so rather than arguing, try to reach a compromise. Drive with the utmost care.

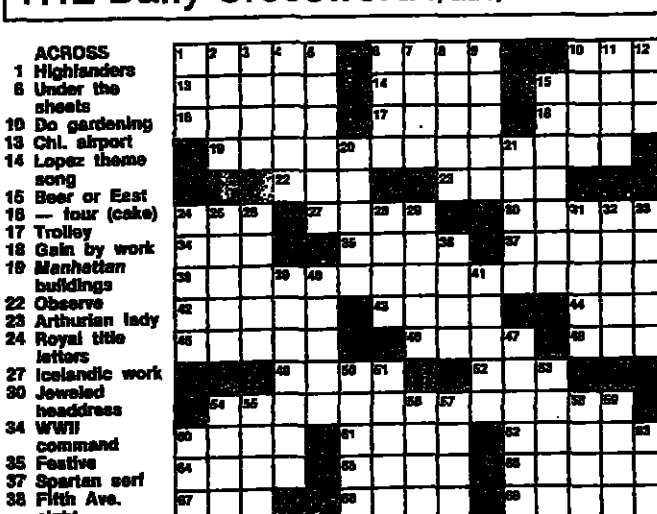
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have committed yourself to some work which is boring, but get it done anyway, since it will pay off handsomely eventually.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you go out for some recreation today, be sure to stay well within your budget. Try to help a good friend out of a bad situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Avoid doing anything which will destroy the harmony in your home. It would be wise to stay around people with a sense of humor today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Watch what you say and do when dealing with others today, and avoid hurting someone's feelings. Use care in motion of any kind.

THE Daily Crossword by Sidney L. Robbins



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ACROSS
1 Highlanders
6 Under the sheets
10 Do gardening
13 Chl. support
14 Loper theme song
15 Beer or East
16 four (cake)
17 Trolley
18 Gain by work
19 Manhattan buildings
22 Arthurian lady
24 Royal title
27 Isolating work
30 Jeweled headpiece
34 WWII command
35 Festive
37 Spartan seat
38 Fifth Ave. sight
42 Goat antelope
43 Sr. composer
44 Consumed
45 Ma Doolittle
46 Hamilton's bills
48 Teflon's op.
49 Burden
52 Pronoun
54 Describable assets
59 Douse
60 Showy flower
62 Archaeology find
64 Dina's song
65 Pile of
66 Muse of poetry
67 Obtain
68 Sword
69 Circuit journeys
DOWN
1 Soak
2 Huntley or Atkins
3 Solemn promise
4 Attempts
5 Diven
6 One against
7 Neo
8 Gladness
9 Friend of Pythias
10 Listen
11 Peddler
12 Coastal bird
15 More indigent
20 Piece of pie
21 Flexible twig
23 Boundary of bushes
25 Backless seat
26 Maxwell girl in Paradise
28 Art school
29 Keen
31 First Eng. party
32 Way to go
33 Crumbling
36 Skin wear
38 Rocket launcher
40 Grassy plain
41 Nairobi's land
47 Evening party
50 John together
51 Bet
53 Exorbitant interest
54 Rippled
55 Be patient
56 Put to work
57 Punta del
58 Mythomaniac
59 Homotic word
60 Drop
63 Call for help

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



French navy shells Kanak separatist camp

NOUMEA (R) — A French navy patrol boat shelled a Kanak separatist camp Saturday, the first intervention by the navy in over a week of ethnic violence that has swept the French-ruled territory.

A spokesman for the French High Commission said the navy vessel turned artillery fire on the separatists after they fired at a 25-man squad of paramilitary gendarmes moving in on the camp at Poubo, 400 kilometres northeast of Noumea.

The 30 Kanaks (Melanesians) fled and there were no apparent injuries, the spokesman said.

The gendarmes seized radio and other equipment and then reboarded the boat. La Moqueuse, to continue patrolling the coast of the Pacific territory.

The incident happened with France still trying to gain the release of 23 hostages held by separatists.

A show of strength by 7,000 soldiers and paramilitary gendarmes, many sent from the French mainland to police the volatile territory before last Sun-

day's French presidential election, has failed to restore order.

Police said they arrested two dozen people Friday, including a Roman Catholic nun charged with harbouring a suspected separatist gunman.

Indigenous Melanesians (Kanak), who boycotted the election as part of their fight to end French rule, are holding a magistrate and 22 gendarmes hostage in a limestone cave on the remote atoll of Ouvéa, 300 km. from Noumea.

Gunmen struck again Wednesday, capturing eight French negotiators as they picked their way through thick undergrowth to begin talks on releasing their colleagues.

Among the captives is Philippe Legorjus, leader of France's elite anti-terrorist GIGN gendarme squad, who is believed to be still

negotiating with about 15 heavily-armed Kanaks for the release of his fellow captives.

A spokesman for the High Commission, which represents the Paris government 20,000 km. away, said negotiations were difficult "because the kidnappers have forwarded absolutely no demands."

Yeiwene Yeiwene, second-in-command of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), told French television the impasse could only be broken if a neutral negotiator replaced right-wing Overseas Territories Minister Bernard Pons.

Pons, who has been in New Caledonia since Sunday, called Friday for the dissolution of the FLNKS and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said he would consider the request.

Kanak make up 43 per cent of the archipelago's 145,000 population and demand an end to 144 years of French rule which they say favours white and other settlers concentrated in the prosperous, beach-lined capital.

Peace conference to tackle Angola, Namibia

LONDON (AP) — A conference next week will bring the United States, Angola, Cuba and South Africa together for the first time to discuss troop withdrawals from Angola and independence for South West Africa, the government said Friday.

The conference, to be held Tuesday and Wednesday at a secret London location, follows intense diplomatic activity aimed at ending the 13-year-old Angolan civil war and achieving independence for neighbouring South West Africa, also known as Namibia, which is controlled by South Africa.

Announcement of the talks by the British Foreign Office followed a meeting Friday between Anatoly Adamishin, a Soviet deputy foreign minister, and Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

U.S. officials said Crocker would lead the U.S. delegation to the talks but the delegates of the other nations were not identified. A statement from South Africa's Foreign Ministry said none of its representatives would have cabinet rank.

Adamishin told a news conference the Soviet Union, although not a participant at the meeting, supports the "political dynamism" that led to the new attempt at a political settlement in southern Africa.

The United States seeks a timetable for withdrawal of the 40,000 Cuban military personnel in Angola. Angola and the Soviet Union want South Africa to withdraw its forces from Namibia and comply with a 1986 United Nations demand to give it independence.

Angola's Marxist government, with Cuban help and Soviet backing, is fighting rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, or UNITA, which is supported by South Africa and the United States.

Previous efforts at a settlement have stalled, in part because of U.S. support for South Africa's demand that the Cuban troops leave before it gives independence to Namibia.

South Africa captured the mineral-rich territory from Germany in World War I and controls it under a League of Nations mandate abrogated by the United Nations in 1966. The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which has bases in southern Angola, is fighting a guerrilla war for independence for the territory.

The Angolan government has refused to talk directly with UNITA and the rebels are not included in the London conference. Adamishin said the Soviets and Angolans consider UNITA "like an arm of South Africa."

U.S. differs with Soviets over key INF provisions

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Friday it is at odds with the Soviet Union over key provisions of a new treaty scrapping medium-range missiles, a development that could further complicate Senate approval of the pact prior to the May summit in Moscow.

The dispute, involving procedures to prevent cheating, arose during talks between U.S. and Soviet technical experts, and Washington has raised it with Moscow through diplomatic channels. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

"In these (expert) talks, the Soviets have advanced positions on some issues that are more restrictive than the provisions of the INF treaty," he told reporters.

"That, of course, we can't accept," he said, adding that Washington hoped for a quick Soviet response.

Redman said the U.S.-Soviet dispute concerned the size of containers, vehicles and structures which U.S. inspectors can examine and the degree of access they will have during inspections of Soviet military facilities.

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty, eliminating missiles with a range of 500-5,500 kilometres, at their Washington summit last December.

Reagan has said he hoped the Senate could approve the accord, the first to scrap an entire class of nuclear weapons, before he meets Gorbachev in Moscow on May 29-June 2.

Dispute over verifications But leading senators said again Friday several problems must be resolved first, including the U.S.-Soviet dispute over verification provisions that Redman disclosed.

Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd accused Moscow of "renegeing" on the INF measures against cheating and said the Senate "will be more fair to the treaty... if these problems can be clarified before we begin action on the treaty."

Byrd told reporters he had tentatively set May 11 as the date to begin debate on the accord, one day after key senators discuss remaining problems with top administration officials.

The West Virginian senator said if the problems are taken care of, "I don't see why we can't approve ratification of this treaty" by the start of the Moscow summit.

North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, a Republican opponent of the INF accord, said issues like the verification dispute have made more senators question the pact, but conceded there were still not enough opponents to block Senate approval.

Panama disputes U.S. report on Noriega agreeing to resign

WASHINGTON (AP) — Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega has tentatively agreed to resign as defence chief but will remain in Panama at least temporarily, a U.S. government official said.

Noriega reached his decision during private consultations over the past two months with the administration of President Ronald Reagan, including a face-to-face meeting this week with a State Department envoy, the official said Friday.

In Panama, however, officials denied U.S. reports of a deal with Noriega.

"That agreement does not exist," Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said at a news conference.

"The basis for an agreement has to be the normalisation of relations between the two countries," Ritter said. "You can hardly reach an agreement when relations with the United States are at the point they are."

Panamanian Ambassador Juan B. Sosa, a leader of the anti-Noriega forces in Washington, reacted sharply to word of the proposed agreement, accusing the United States of going beyond its authority in trying to negotiate Panama's political future.

That issue, he said in an interview, "has to be negotiated by Panamanians."

The U.S. official, insisting on anonymity, said the tentative solution was "less than ideal"

because it would allow Noriega to remain in Panama after his resignation.

"We have to settle for three-fourths of a loaf," the official said.

The Washington Post said in Friday's editions that Noriega is known to prefer the Dominican Republic if he is forced to exile. It quoted officials as saying that Noriega probably would resign in a matter of weeks.

Publicly, the Reagan adminis-

tration pursued a policy of studied silence Friday, with neither the White House nor the State Department offering comment.

Officials apparently are concerned that excessive publicity might prompt Noriega to reassess his tentative decision to step down after five years as chief of the defence forces.

Noriega's resignation presumably would pave the way for free elections and the restoration of constitutional rule in Panama.

Contras drop major demand impeding talks

MANAGUA (Agencies) — Rebel leaders dropped a demand that their fighters receive ammunition and weapons after moving into cease-fire zones, removing a major obstacle in peace talks with the government.

However, contra representatives rejected a government proposal that would have allowed the rebels to receive humanitarian aid channelled through the International Red Cross.

In another development Friday, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco charged that the contras suffered deep internal divisions and that some segments rejected disarmament and returning to civilian life.

Rebel spokesman Bosco Mata-

moros said during the second round of talks in Managua that the Nicaraguan Resistance, another reference to the U.S.-supported contras, wanted the right to select who channels the aid. Otherwise, he said, the rebels would be "in a vulnerable position."

"We understand it is to be a neutral organisation selected by the resistance and not by the Sandinista government," Matamoros said. Rebels consider the International Red Cross sympathetic to the government.

Tinoco's comments came on the second day of talks in the capital to work out details of a cease-fire pact signed by both sides on March 23.

South Africa captured the mineral-rich territory from Germany in World War I and controls it under a League of Nations mandate abrogated by the United Nations in 1966. The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which has bases in southern Angola, is fighting a guerrilla war for independence for the territory.

The Angolan government has refused to talk directly with UNITA and the rebels are not included in the London conference. Adamishin said the Soviets and Angolans consider UNITA "like an arm of South Africa."

Soviet paper suggests 'anti-Gorbachev plot'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Culture Ministry newspaper Sovetskaya Kultura suggested Saturday that Communist Party officials could be plotting to remove Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

It published a letter presented as written by a reader in Siberia who expressed fears known to be held by many liberal intellectuals and Gorbachev supporters that his position was under mounting attack from conservatives.

"A (party) plenum at which M.S. Gorbachev could be removed... is still a real possibility. It is far from everywhere and far from unanimously that the party apparatus supports our leader," the letter said.

Public backing by party officials for Gorbachev's "perestroika" reconstruction programme was not always sincere, it said.

"But if there is an effort to block the perestroika, the people will not keep silent this time," the letter said in a clear reference to the lack of reaction to the ouster of Nikita Khrushchev in 1964.

"Almost every citizen of the Soviet Union is for Gorbachev. Against him are a handful of people who are biding their time behind the double doors of their offices," the letter, signed Y. Borokhovich, said.

Publication of the letter, one of many on similar themes now appearing in newspapers identified with Gorbachev, came amid strong reports in Moscow that the Kremlin chief had recently defeated a bid to sidetrack his reforms.

It followed a warning in Sovetskaya Kultura earlier this month from playwright Alexander Gelman that bureaucrats and conservatives were hoping to use this summer's party conference to wreck the reconstruction programme.

Gorbachev has increasingly spoken of a danger from opponents of reform and his backers have indicated he hopes to reshape the top leadership at the conference to ensure cohesion as perestroika moves into its crucial phase.

Gorbachev: Kremlin made 'tragic' errors towards Christians

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met the leader of the Russian Orthodox church Friday and said the Soviet state had made tragic mistakes in its past treatment of Christians, TASS news agency said.

In his first formal reception of Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Pimen, Gorbachev also said believers "have the full right to express their conviction with dignity" and pledged the state would not interfere.

Gorbachev said Christians had suffered during the "cult of personality," a reference to the rule of late Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

"Not everything was easy and simple in the sphere of state-church relations... religious organisations were also affected by the tragic developments that occurred in the period of the cult of personality," Gorbachev said.

Aiding the anti-alcohol campaign

MOSCOW (R) — When a Soviet factory bottled a beer with a dead mouse inside it, it drew tongue-in-cheek praise from a newspaper for helping the Kremlin's anti-alcohol drive. The staff at the Moscow Beer and Beverage Enterprise has found a new way of keeping citizens away from the bad habit of drinking beer, the youth newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets said in an article Saturday. "Keep it up." The bottle was sold Tuesday at a Moscow shop. Moskovsky Komsomolets said. It published a photograph of the unopened bottle with the clear outline of a rodent floating in it. "As a result of this, half a liter of wicked poison remained undrunk," the newspaper said. "Only the Society for the Protection of Animals does not appear to be doing its work," it concluded.

And it's not pressing in Cyprus?

NICOSIA (R) — The Greek language is being blamed for a dilemma apparently increasingly angering women on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. More and more women are objecting to being asked whether they are "Miss" or "Mrs." but their language has no such word yet as the English-style "Ms." The Cyprus newspaper Alithia, championing the women's cause, had no answers but commented it was a bit much for a woman to have to report on her marital status each time she picked up the phone. Grammarian Nicos Hadjiannou, however, held out long-term hope. "A word (such as Ms) is not created until you feel the need... in English the need was more pressing," he said.

Mc Cartney's gift

MOSCOW (R) — British singer Paul McCartney has signed a contract to release a new record album exclusively in the Soviet Union this autumn, the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda said Saturday. Thirteen rock and roll classics from the 1950s and 1960s will be on the album released by the Soviet recording firm Melodiya, the Communist youth newspaper said. In an interview with the newspaper in London, former Beatle Mc Cartney said the album was a gift to his fans in the Soviet Union. "I knew that my records were a hit in the Soviet Union, that the Beatles and Beatles-style music is loved there," Mc Cartney told the newspaper. "The new spirit of friendship and openness that is coming from the Soviet Union inspired me to make a present to my fans in your country," he was quoted as saying.

Iacocca embarrassed by \$18m

HIGHLAND PARK, MI (R) — Chrysler Corp Chairman Lee Iacocca said Wednesday he was embarrassed by his 1987 earnings of nearly \$18 million in salary, bonus and exercised stock options. But he said he would not apologise for payments to him or other Chrysler executives. "I was embarrassed," Iacocca told a press conference. "But what should I do? Should I root for the stock to go down?" He said his pay was a result of the success of Chrysler since he signed a four-year contract in 1983. Last week a Chrysler proxy statement showed that even though Iacocca took about a \$6 million pay cut in 1987, he still earned \$17.9 million.

A little lax

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department kept millions of dollars worth of travellers' checks in unlocked cabinets and piled on floors in an operation so lax that more than \$59,000 was embezzled and \$307,780 cannot be accounted for, the department's inspector general reported Wednesday. Some of the advance payments have been written off as uncollectable and some were made to accounts bearing obviously fictitious names, including that of "Ludwig Von Beethoven," said Frank Conahan, an assistant U.S. comptroller general. Government investigators testified that controls on State Department travel advances were so disorganised that \$15 million in such payments are delinquent, a total that includes a \$695 advance to Lieutenant Colonel Oliver L. North that is four years overdue.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Nuclear detection experiment successful

GERLACH, Nevada (AP) — American and Soviet scientists exchanged vodka toasts after claiming victory in the first of a series of experiments they hope will prove that a cheat-proof ban in all nuclear weapons testing is possible. "The experiment is successful," Charles Archambeau, a University of Colorado-Boulder geophysics professor, said Friday after delicate seismic equipment detected a low-yield simulated nuclear blast in the

Nevada desert. "It means that we can more accurately gauge the numbers and distribution of stations that will be required to verify a low-threshold treaty. It also will help us to set the threshold of what's verifiable," he said. Archambeau heads the Seismic Monitoring Advisory Committee of the Natural Resources Defence Council, a private group conducting the experiments in this country and the Soviet Union in cooperation with the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Scientists initially thought Friday's detonation of 10 tonnes of TNT had failed to register on any of the 143 seismic monitors scattered throughout Nevada, but a more detailed study indicated the test was successful.

Armenian TV broadcasts in disputed region

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet television began broadcasting in the Armenian language Friday to Nagorno-Karabakh, whose population sparked ethnic unrest by seeking to withdraw from the Azerbaijan Republic and join neighbouring Armenia. Transmission of Armenian programming to the largest city, Stepanakert, and the rest of the region started "thanks to a powerful repeater station built there over a very short time," said the Soviet news agency TASS. After protests began in Mid-February, the Soviet government last month turned down the demand to attach Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. Instead it announced an eight-year, multi-million ruble plan to improve the cultural and economic life of the region. Armenian-language television programming was one of the items specifically included in the government plan.

Red Army suspect pleads innocent

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — A man linked to a Left-wing Japanese guerrilla group pleaded innocent Friday to weapons possession charges. 17 days after police found three pipe bombs in his car along the New Jersey Turnpike. FBI agents have been investigating a possible link between the man, Yu Kikumura, 35, and a U.S. military club bombing in Naples, Italy, that killed five people, including a U.S. servicewoman. Italian authorities have linked the bombing to the guerrilla group. Italian authorities have confirmed that Kikumura was in their country in February. FBI Spokesman James Knights said he could not comment on the continuing investigation. The Japanese Foreign Ministry has identified Kikumura as a suspected member of the Red Army.

Dr. Jamal Al Sha'er

Gynecologist

Receives his patients at his clinic in

Al Ahli Hospital, Abdali, as of 1/5/88

Tel: 664164/5/6

Clinic hours: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. &

5:00-7:00 p.m.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

Tender Notice No. TCC 4/88

Transmission Equipment

Supply and Installation



The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 4/88 (Transmission Equipment — Supply and Installation) as part of the Implementation Programme of the "Five-Year Development Plan" to expand the Telephone Network in Jordan.

This project includes:

— Redeployment and expansion of the existing transmission systems.

— Supply and installation of new transmission systems. Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the Terms, Stipulations and Technical Specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to submit in addition to a bid price a financing proposal to finance the foreign exchange portion of the cost of the subsequent contract to be awarded.

Bidding Documents can be purchased from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1689, Amman, Jordan as of 2nd May, 1988 against a payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred Jordanian dinars (JD 500). Bids, accompanied by a Bid Security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time Monday, Aug. 15, 1988.

Director General

Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail